Let's Go Play!

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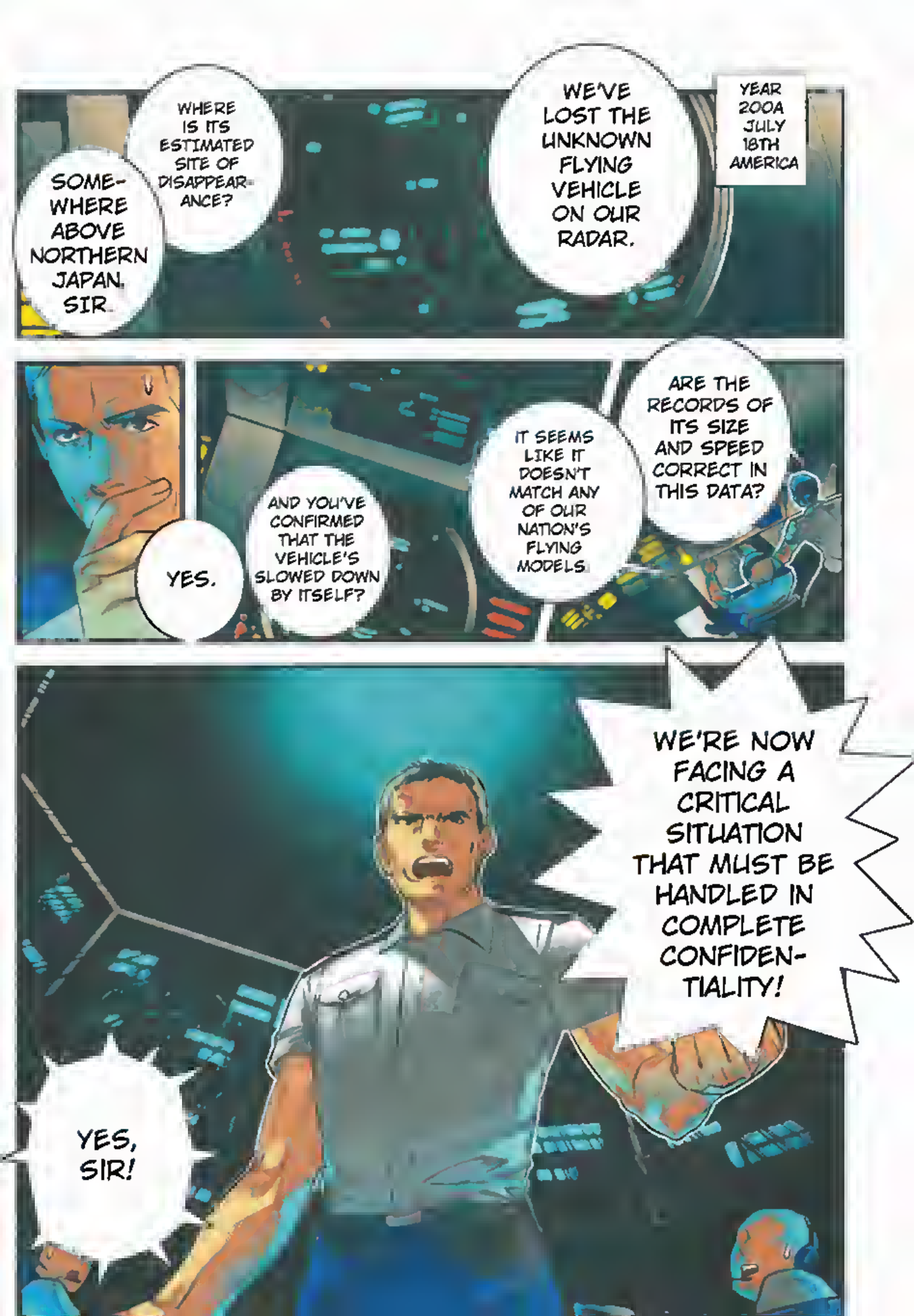
YEAR 200A JULY 18TH AMERICA
WE'VE LOST THE UNKNOWN FLYING VEHICLE ON OUR RADAR.
WHERE IS ITS ESTIMATED SITE OF DISAPPEAR-ANCE?
SOME-WHERE ABOVE NORTHERN JAPAN, SIR.
ARE THE RECORDS OF ITS SIZE AND SPEED CORRECT IN THIS DATA?
IT SEEMS LIKE IT DOESN'T MATCH ANY OF OUR NATION'S FLYING MODELS.
AND YOU'VE CONFIRMED THAT THE VEHICLE'S SLOWED DOWN BY ITSELF?
YES.
WE'RE NOW FACING A CRITICAL SITUATION THAT MUST BE HANDLED IN COMPLETE CONFIDEN-TIALITY!
YES, SIR!

MAJOR, THE DATA HERE INDI-CATES,
THAT THE MESSAGE WE RECEIVED WAS FROM THE DIRECTION WHERE THE UNKNOWN VEHICLE WAS DETECTED SIX MONTHS AGO.
WHY WAS I NOT INFORMED OF THIS?
WELL, THE MESSAGE IS A LITTLE STRANGE ...
I SUSPECT THAT ITS SIGNAL MIGHT HAVE BEEN MIXED UP DUE TO THE INFLUENCE OF THE SUN'S BLACK SPOTS...
WHAT ...?
"LET'S GO PLAY"...?

001 WHO ARE YOU?

SUMMER
YEAR 200A OKINAWA, JAPAN
IT'S SO HOT...
MIIN
PHEW
IT'S SUMMER AFTER ALL... PHEW...

Let's Go Play! あそびにいくヨ! 1

Written by Okina Kemino
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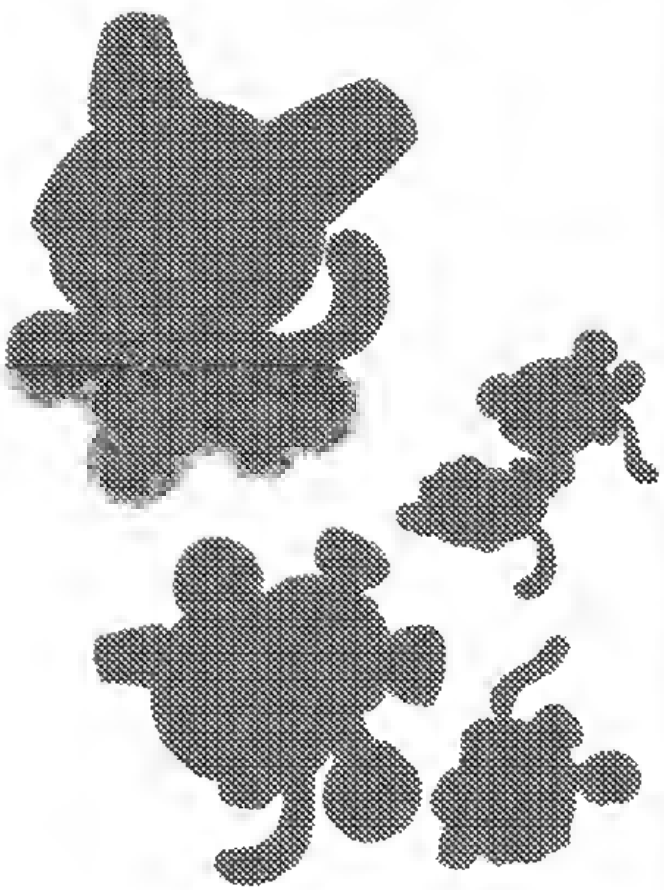

LET'S GO PLAY VOLUME 1

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YO!
HEY, KIO! HAVING FUN?
HI, UNCLE YUICHI.
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
TODAY'S THE FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE SINCE THE PASSING OF OUR 5TH ELDER.
IF YOU PUT ON A SERIOUS FACE LIKE THAT, HE'LL LAUGH AT YA!
SO, ARE YOU GETTING BY AT SCHOOL?
YEAH, MORE OR LESS.
GOT A GIRL-FRIEND YET?
N-NO, NOT YET! THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE!
THE KAKAZU FAMILY SURE GETS TOGETHER A LOT EACH YEAR,
THOUGH MOST OF US LIVE OVERSEAS.
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE WE DON'T CELEBRATE THE SHIMI FESTIVAL.

NOTE: Seimei (Shimi in Okinawa) Festival, also known as the Tomb Sweeping Festival is mostly referred to in Okinawa as Shimi. It's the 104th day after the winter solstice, usually around April 5th, where families go visit the graves of those who've passed away.

M-MANAMI-CHAN AND I AREN'T LIKE THAT...
WHY NOT...?
HOW ABOUT MANAMI-CHAN FROM NEXT DOOR?!
HA HA HA
HAHA!
I CAN SMELL YOUR BEER BREATH!
GOOD!
DON'T TELL ME THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN TWO CHILDHOOD FRIENDS WHO STILL HANG OUT, EVEN AT THIS AGE?
PAT
PAT
Y'KNOW, IT'S ONLY A YOUTHFUL PRIVILEGE TO GET ALL FLUSHED OVER SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS HOLDING HANDS.
YOU CAN HAVE SEX LATER, WHEN YOU'RE AN ADULT.
UNCLE YUICHI!!
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WHATEVER IT MAY BE... PUPPY LOVE, DATING OR PICKING UP GIRLS, YOU GOTTA DO IT NOW.
SAY, HOW ABOUT THAT GIRL OVER THERE?

HERE, HERE
SCRATCH SCRATCH
AW, YOU'RE TOO KIND. THANK YOU SO MUCH!
GULP GULP
IS THERE A COSPLAY PARTY?
AHHH...
THAT WAS GREAT!!
OH!

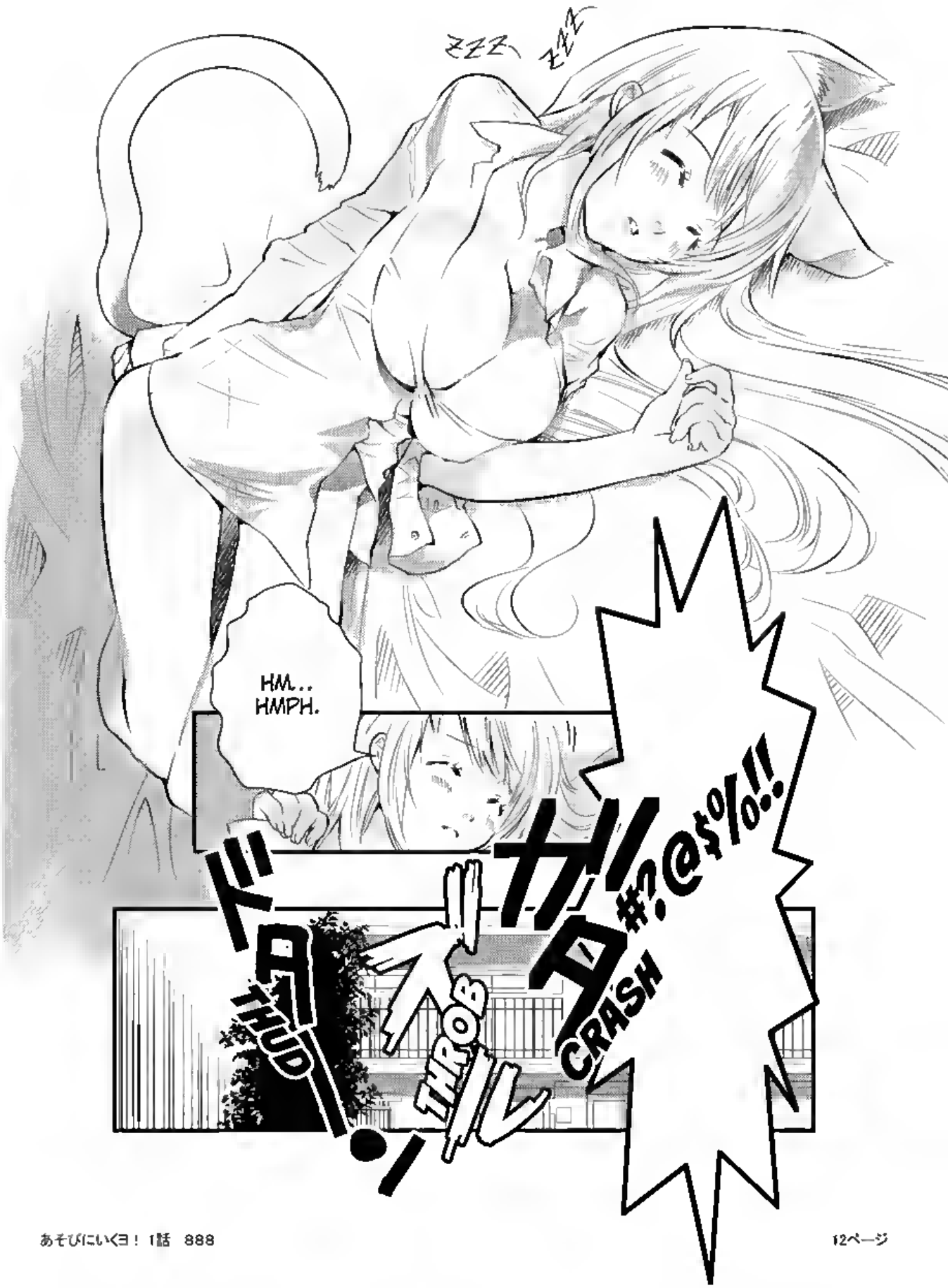
OH COME ON, WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
WE'VE GOT NO RULES TODAY!
SPLENDID! YOU'RE A GREAT DRINKER!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, DAD?! YOU CAN'T LET A MINOR DRINK...
KIO!
GO FOR IT,
NOT THAT ANYBODY CARES..
AND HERE WE GO AGAIN. EVERYBODY IN MY FAMILY GETS SO CARRIED AWAY WHEN THEY'RE DRUNK.
SORRY ABOUT THAT. WAS HE GIVING YOU TROUBLE?
NO, NO,
NOT AT ALL!
THE DRINK WAS DELICIOUS, AND THIS, TOO...
OH, YOU MEANT THE DENGAKU-STYLED TARO POTATOES?

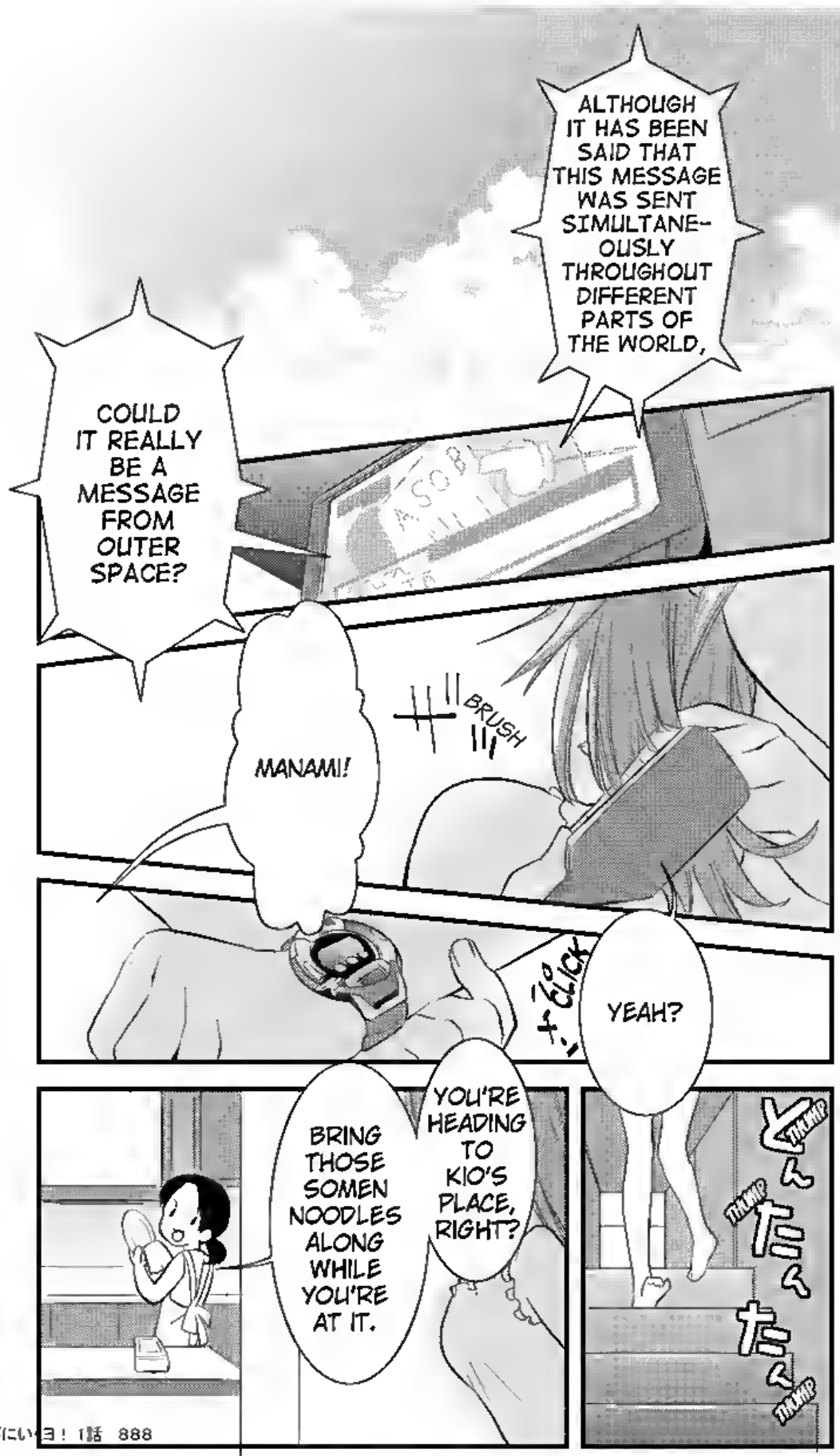
NOTE: DENGAKU IS A TYPE OF JAPANESE CUISINE THAT INVOLVES COOKING FOOD COATED IN MISO.

AND ALSO THE WHITE RADISH IN ODEN, STIR FRIED OKINAWA SPINACH, AND TEMPURA...
SO ARE THE SPARE RIBS!
YES, YES! THE KELP ROLL IS GOOD TOO...
SPARKLE
I'M EXTREMELY HAPPY!!
IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I LAST HAD MEAT...
SO,
WOW, SHE REALLY WANTED TO EAT THE MEAT...
OH, I SEE. HA HA HA.
WHERE IN THE WORLD COULD THIS GIRL BE COMING FROM?

OH, SORRY, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF
NICE TO MEET YOU, MY NAME IS ERIS.
I'M KAKAZU KIO.
SO, SHE'S NOT JAPANESE AFTER ALL...
NOD
BOW
SWAY
I'VE HEARD A SAYING THAT THOSE WHO COME LATE MUST DRINK THREE GLASSES TO COMPENSATE. SO HERE YOU GO!
OH, THANKS.
POUR
LIFT
GULP
SHIT, THIS IS BAD...
I MUST HAVE HIT SOMETHING AND BRUISED MYSELF.
EVERYTHING BEFORE ME IS STARTING TO SWIRL...
OR EVEN WORSE, I MIGHT HAVE LOST A TOOTH OR TWO....

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
...
DANG IT... IT'S 9 A.M. AL-READY?
09:05
I WAS PLANNING TO SEE DAD OFF AT THE AIRPORT...
THROB
THROB
THROB
HM...
I'M COVERED IN SWEAT...
HMM ...?
パタ FWAD
パタ FWAD
BULGE
WHAT'S THAT...?


ZZZ... Z
HM..
HMPH.
ドタ!
THUD
ズキ!!
THROB
ガ!
CRASH
#?@$%!!


ALTHOUGH IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS SENT SIMULTANE-OUSLY THROUGHOUT DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD,
COULD IT REALLY BE A MESSAGE FROM OUTER SPACE?
BRUSH
MANAMI!
CLICK
YEAH?
YOU'RE HEADING TO KIO'S PLACE, RIGHT?
BRING THOSE SOMEN NOODLES ALONG WHILE YOU'RE AT IT.
TAKKP
TAKKP
TAKKP
TAKKP

MOUNTAIN FULL
YOU MADE THESE AGAIN...?
YOUR GRAND-MOTHER FROM SHIZUOKA SENT US A GREAT DEAL OF STOCK.
PLUS, SINCE KIO-KUN'S PARENTS ARE AWAY AT TOKYO FOR WORK, IT MUST BE HARD FOR HIM TO TAKE CARE OF HIMSELF.
OKAY... FINE, FINE.
CLANK
SO I HEARD HE ALSO HAS A FEMALE GUEST OVER...
SLAM
I'M GONNA GO FIND OUT RIGHT NOW!!
OW.

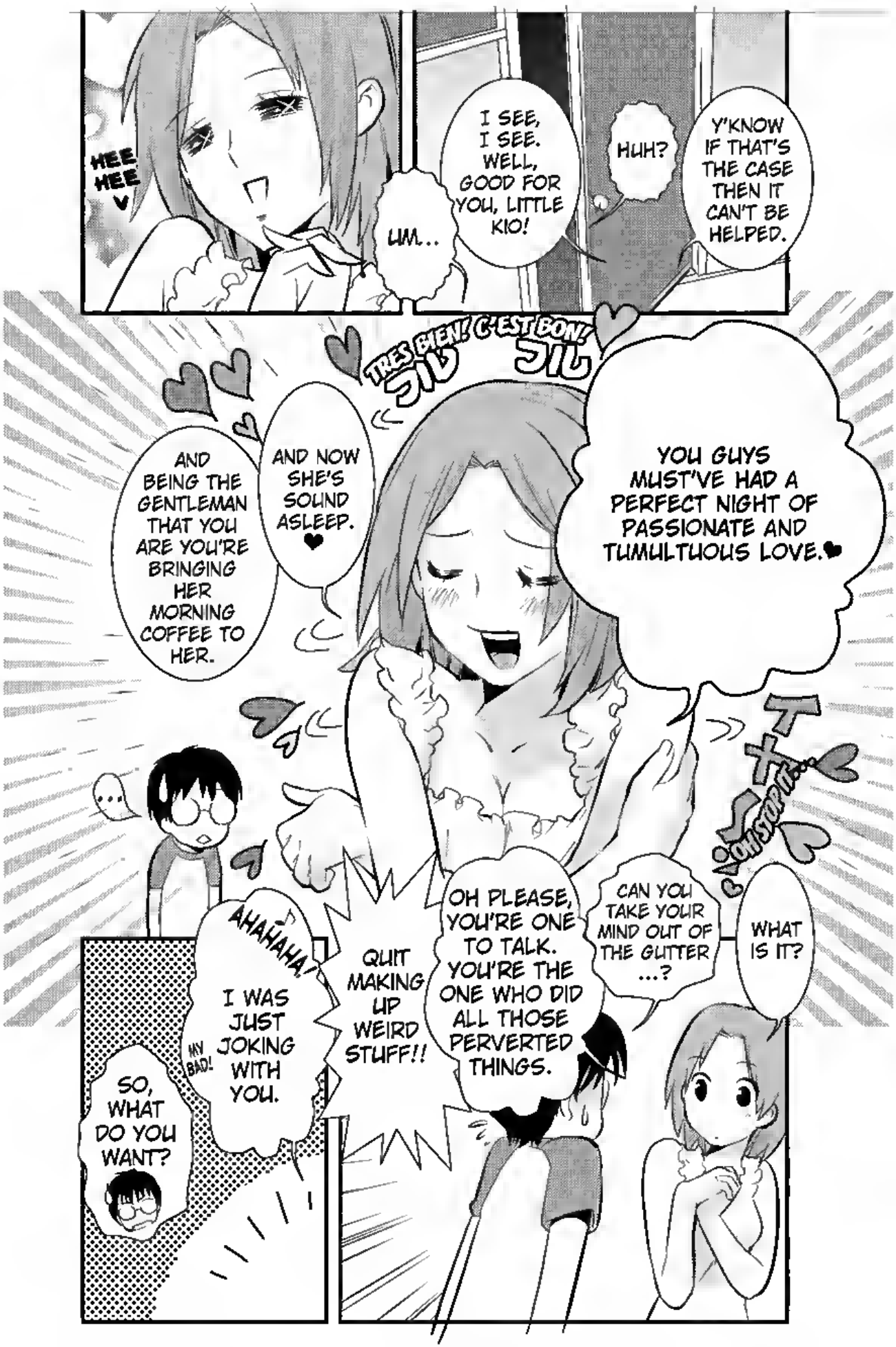
HM?
GOOD MORNING, KIO-CHAN.
BOW
...!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
W-WHY WERE YOU...?
OWW WWW!
WIGGLE
DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD?
I'M GOING TO HEAL YOU.
SHAKE
HERE, MOVE YOUR HAND AWAY FOR A SEC.
A CELL PHONE?

T-THANKS...
JUST IN CASE YOU HAD INTERNAL BLEEDING, I'VE GOT THAT COVERED TOO.♥
SHOOSH
SHOOSH
IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE...?
フィィ
WAIT...
Hmmm
U-UHM, COULD YOU PLEASE BUTTON UP...
I MEAN, WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN MY BED?!
I ASKED YOUR PARENTS
AND THEY TOLD ME TO "MAKE MYSELF AT HOME AND SLEEP WHEREVER I PLEASE"...
WELL, YOU COULD HAVE WOKEN ME UP,
SO I COULD'VE SLEPT SOMEWHERE ELSE...
WHAT'S WRONG?

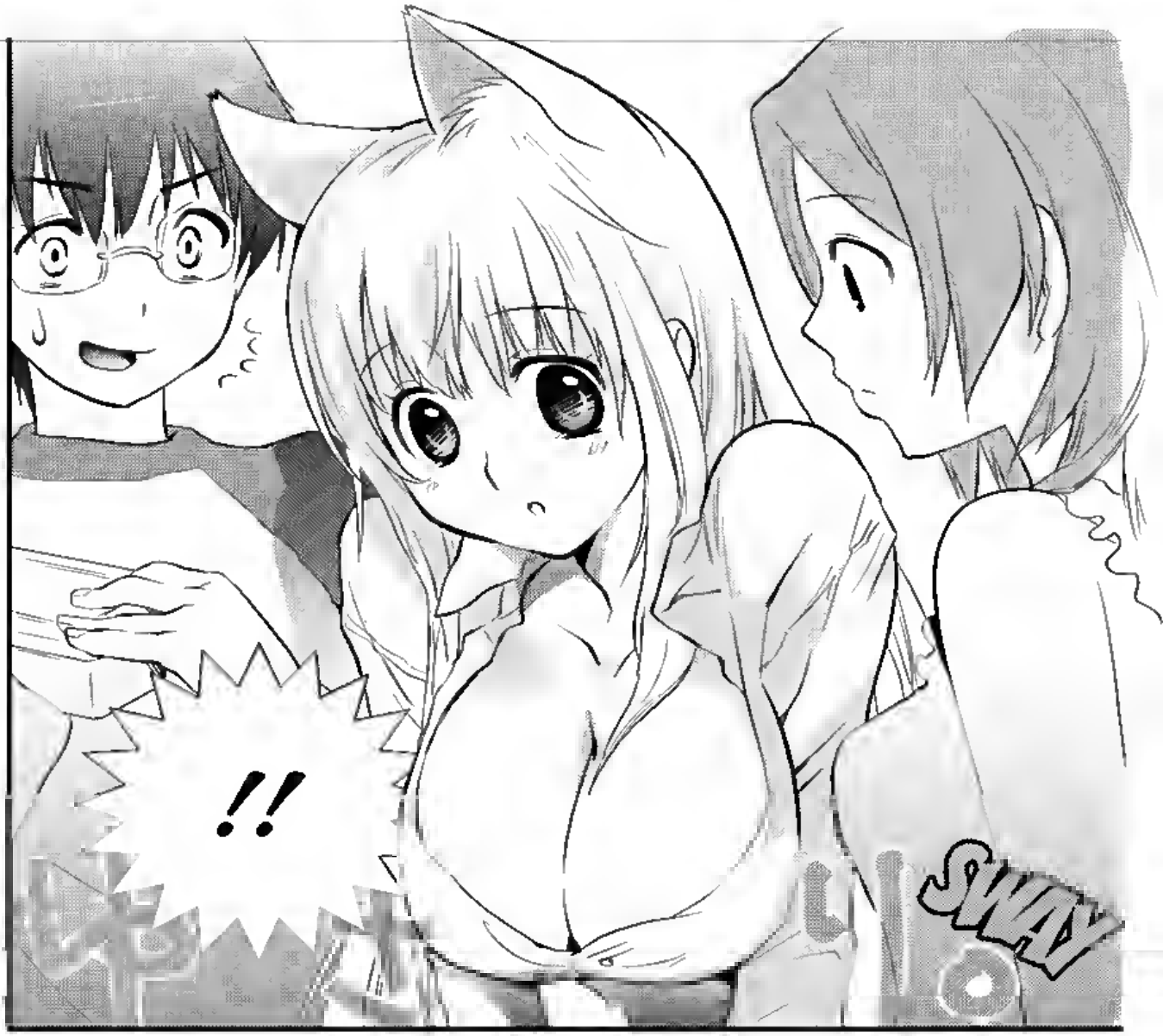
BLANK
LIKE WHAT?
WHEN A MAN AND WOMAN ARE ALONE TOGETHER ...
A LOT OF THINGS CAN GO WRONG ...
WHY'S THAT?
SMOOTH
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY?
I-IN ANY CASE, GO GET CHANGED WHILE I GO TO THE BATH-ROOM!
OH, OKAY ...?
SLAM
SHOCK
KI— O— KUUUN!!
WHAT EXACTLY IS SHE TRYING TO DO?!
WHAT THE HELL?
WHAT?
SHOCK
STAGGER
STAGGER

MORN-ING!
G-GOOD MORN-ING!
H-H-HEY!
SO, WHERE IS SHE? THE GIRL YOU BROUGHT BACK.
U-UH ...
INTRODUCE ME TO HER!
POINT
SO WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
W-WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SHE'S NOT HERE... UH, I MEAN SHE IS, BUT YOU SEE, SHE'S KIND OF STRANGE ...
OH, I SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!
HUH?
PAT

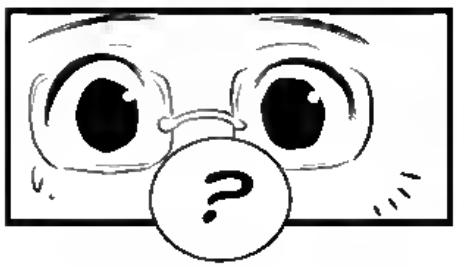
SO...
I NEED TO CHANGE!
OH WOW, THESE ARE MADE OUT OF PLASTIC RESIN AND SOFT VINYL.
SCH...
THEY'RE SO DETAILED. IT'S AMAZING...
IF CAPTAIN, THE LEADER, OR THE ANALYST SAW THESE, THEY'D BE OVER-JOYED...
THEY'D WANT THEM...
WELL, NOT THAT I WOULDN'T WANT ONE FOR MYSELF, EITHER.


HEE HEE
UM...
I SEE, I SEE. WELL, GOOD FOR YOU, LITTLE KIO!
HUH?
Y'KNOW IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
TRÈS BIEN! C'EST BON!
YOU GUYS MUST'VE HAD A PERFECT NIGHT OF PASSIONATE AND TUMULTUOUS LOVE.
AND NOW SHE'S SOUND ASLEEP.
AND BEING THE GENTLEMAN THAT YOU ARE YOU'RE BRINGING HER MORNING COFFEE TO HER.
OH STOP IT...
WHAT IS IT?
CAN YOU TAKE YOUR MIND OUT OF THE GUTTER ...?
OH PLEASE, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DID ALL THOSE PERVERTED THINGS.
QUIT MAKING UP WEIRD STUFF!!
AHAHAHA!
I WAS JUST JOKING WITH YOU.
MY BAD!
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT?

HERE.
IT'S FOR YOU.
I CAN MAKE MYSELF BREAK-FAST, Y'KNOW.
AW, JUST TAKE IT. ❤
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY ...
HEH...
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, PEOPLE WHO CAN MAINTAIN THEIR EMOTIONS HAVE LOTS GOING ON IN THEIR HEADS.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE ISSUE THOUGH.
TSK... AREN'T YOU TALK-ATIVE TODAY.
ANYWAY, YOU CAN GO HOME NOW.
I'M REALLY BUSY.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOUR ATTITUDE!!
WHO KNOWS WHAT SHE'D SAY IF SHE SAW ERIS...?
EXCUSE ME...


!!
SWAY

MANAMI'S SPITEFUL COMMENTS INCOMING!
HERE WE GO ...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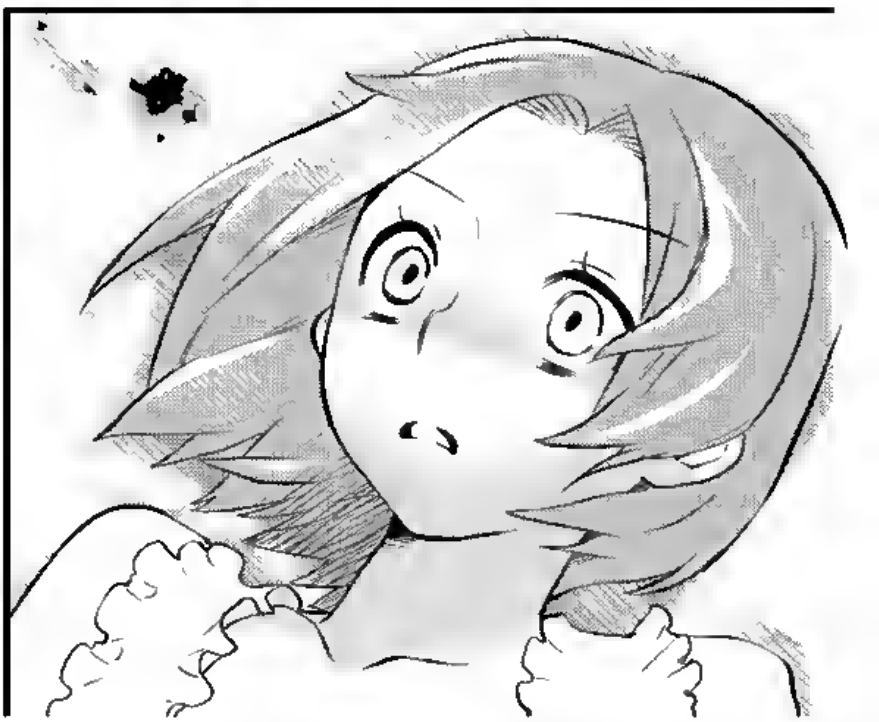
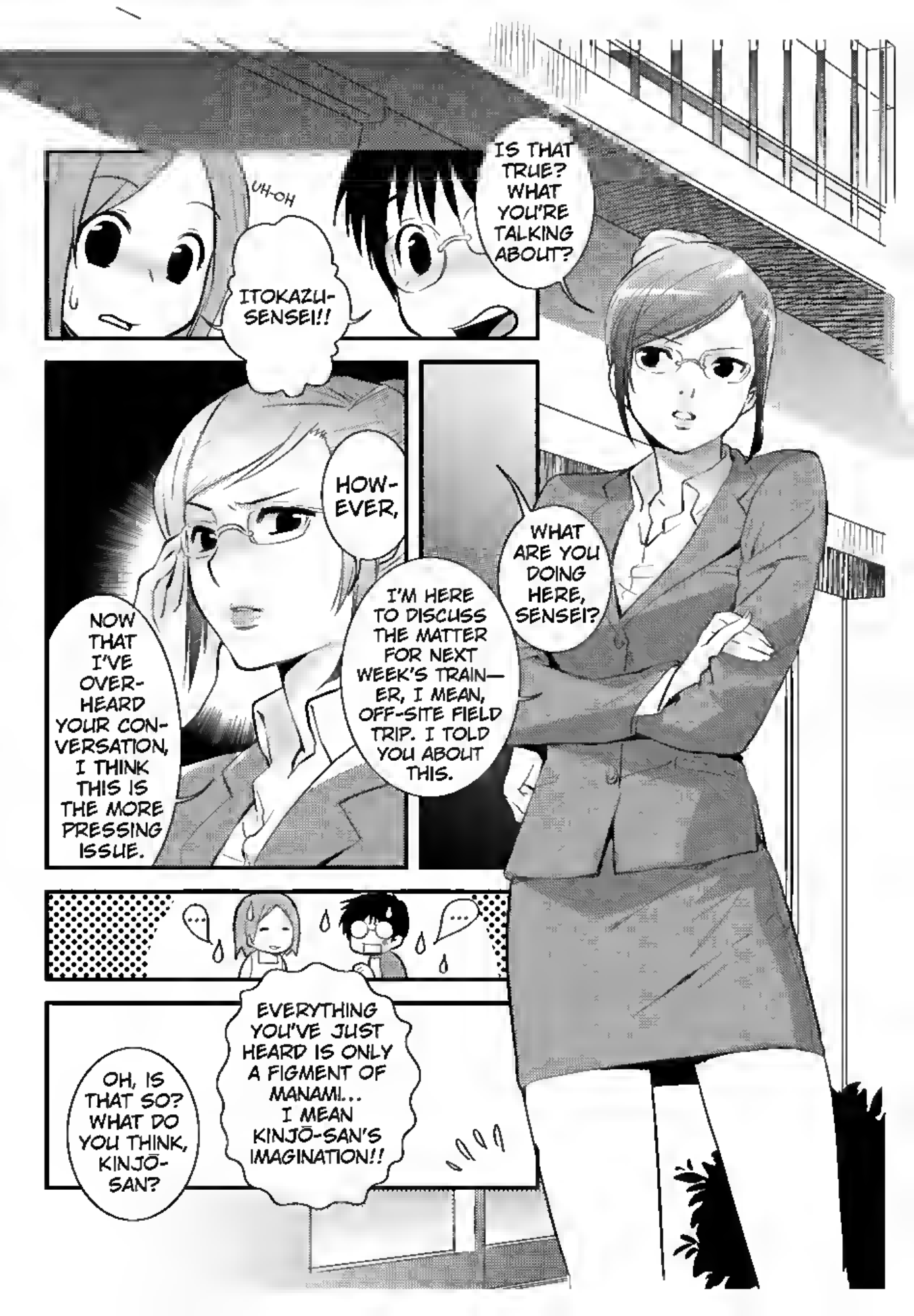
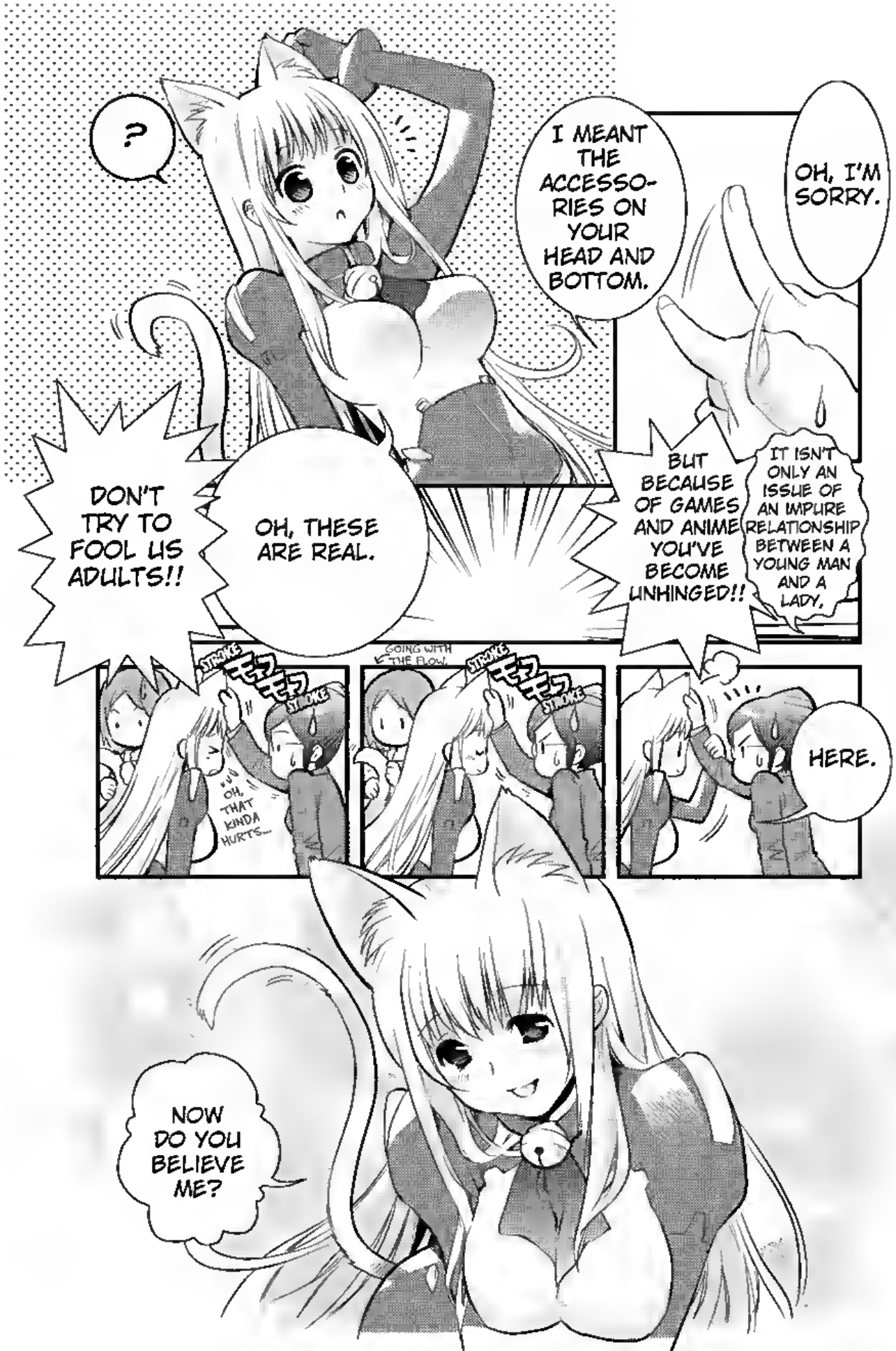


THOSE...
CAN'T BE REAL...
FRENZIED
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WELL, UM..
YOU SEE, I LEFT MY CLOTHES DOWN-STAIRS,
SO COULD I PLEASE GO AND PICK THEM UP?
I-I-IS THAT SO? P-PLEASE HELP YOUR-SELF.
SWIN
BOW
THANK YOU, AND I'LL BE GOING NOW
...
...

GRUMBLE
YOU... PERV!
T-THIS IS ALL A MISUN-DER-STANDING!
I KNOW THAT YOU LIKE ANIME AND GAMES, BUT ISN'T IT A LITTLE OVERBOARD TO HAVE A FOR-EIGNER PUT ON CAT EARS AND A TAIL FOR YOU...?
AND TO HAVE HER DO THIS AND THAT ...
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!!!
NO NO NO
YOU SAW HER, RIGHT? MANAMI-CHAN.
THE EARS AND THE TAILS ARE COMPLETELY REAL! THEY'RE GROWING OUT OF HER BODY!
YOU'RE HALLUCI-NATING.
I SWEAR IT'S THE TRUTH...
THE TRUTH COMING FROM THE PERVERT WITH WEIRD HOBBIES WHO SLEEPS AROUND ALL DAY LONG!!!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!
KNOWING YOU, AND WITH WHAT I JUST SAW!
KAKAZU-KUN!
GRRR
GRRR


UH-OH
ITOKAZU-SENSEI!!
IS THAT TRUE? WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT?
HOW-EVER,
NOW THAT I'VE OVER-HEARD YOUR CON-VERSATION, I THINK THIS IS THE MORE PRESSING ISSUE.
I'M HERE TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FOR NEXT WEEK'S TRAIN— ER, I MEAN, OFF-SITE FIELD TRIP. I TOLD YOU ABOUT THIS.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, SENSEI?
...
...
EVERYTHING YOU'VE JUST HEARD IS ONLY A FIGMENT OF MANAMI... I MEAN KINJŌ-SAN'S IMAGINATION!!
OH, IS THAT SO? WHAT DO YOU THINK, KINJŌ-SAN?

UH, THAT WAS THE CONCLUSION THAT I SUMMED UP FROM OUR PREVIOUS CONVERSATION.
WHY ARE YOU SWEATING SO MUCH?
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
BUT THE FACT THAT KAKAZU-KUN SPENT A NIGHT ALONE WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX IS TRUE?!
N-NO, WE WEREN'T ALONE. BOTH OF MY PARENTS WERE HOME UNTIL THIS MORNING.
EMERGE
UM, KIO-SAN,
IS MY OUTFIT OKAY?
IN ANY CASE, LET'S HAVE A TALK WITH THE GIRL, SHALL WE?
!!
K-K-KAKAZU-KUN!!
SUCH LEWD BEHAVIOR FROM A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
HUH?
THAT!! WHAT IS THAT?!


?
I MEANT THE ACCESSO-RIES ON YOUR HEAD AND BOTTOM.
OH, I'M SORRY.
DON'T TRY TO FOOL US ADULTS!!
OH, THESE ARE REAL.
BUT BECAUSE OF GAMES AND ANIME YOU'VE BECOME UNHINGED!!
IT ISN'T ONLY AN ISSUE OF AN IMPURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN A YOUNG MAN AND A LADY.
GOING WITH THE FLOW.
OH, THAT KINDA HURTS...
HERE.
NOW DO YOU BELIEVE ME?

AH!
W-WHO ... ARE YOU?
I'M AN ALIEN FROM OUTER SPACE.
IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EARTH, I'VE COME HERE TO PLAY!

ERIS

HEIGHT: 178 CM (CAT EARS INCLUDED)
WEIGHT: 29 KILOGRAM (AVERAGE WEIGHT OF CATIANS)
BUST: 95(F)/ WAIST: 60/ HIP: 85

FIRST ROUGH SKETCH

ERIS IS A GIRL WITH CAT EARS AND A TAIL WHO CAME TO EARTH AS THE REPRESENTATIVE SCOUT OF OUTER SPACE. SHE'S NOT JUST SIMPLY WELL-ENDOWED, BUT EXTREMELY VOLUPTUOUS. ALTHOUGH SHE'S VERY INDEPENDENT, SHE CAN BE A BIT OF AN AIRHEAD AT TIMES.

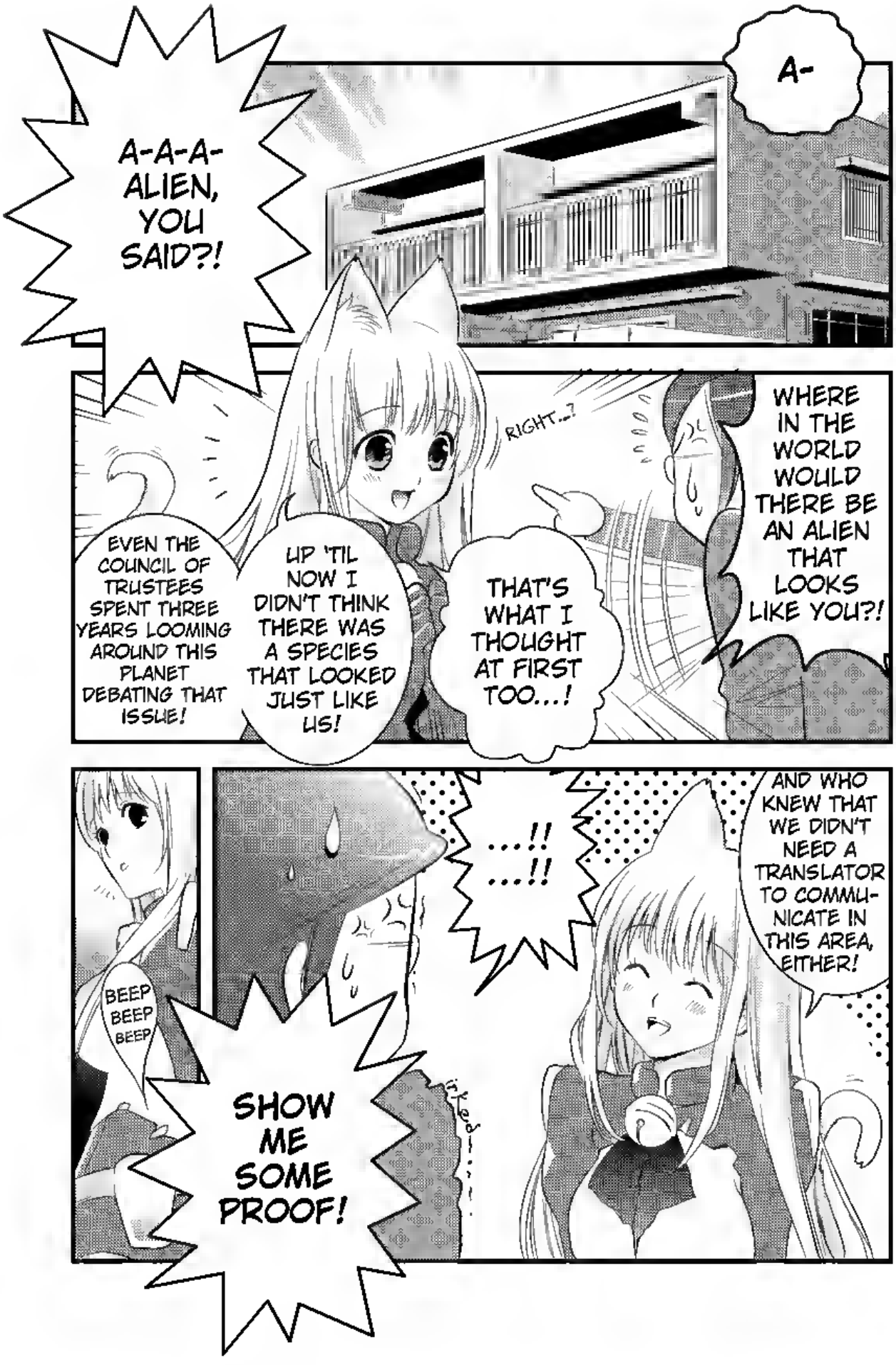
KAKAZU KIO
HEIGHT: 160 CM
WEIGHT: 45 KG

KIO'S AN ORDINARY FIRST-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN OKINAWA, JAPAN. ALTHOUGH HE LIVES BY HIMSELF WHILE HIS PARENTS ARE AWAY IN TOKYO FOR WORK, HE DOES NOT SEEM PARTICULARLY LONELY SINCE HE IS CONSTANTLY SHOWERED WITH CARE BY HIS RELATIVES AND NEIGHBORS. KIO HAS A HABIT OF SAVING UP HIS ALLOWANCE FOR HIS FIGURINE AND PLASTIC MODEL COLLECTION. ALSO, HE BELONGS TO THE FILM AND MEDIA CLUB AT SCHOOL.

EARTHEN CALENDAR YEAR 200A JULY 25TH SOMEWHERE IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM.
OH?
WHAT'S WRONG, CHAYKA?
MEOWZZZ
THAT IDIOT ERIS ACCIDENTALLY LEFT HER FOOD SUPPLIES OUT DURING FINAL DEPARTURE,
AND LEFT FOR EARTH WITHOUT THEM.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT...?
THEN WE MUST SEND IT TO HER RIGHT AWAY!
Y'KNOW, IT'S BEEN A WEEK SINCE SHE LEFT ...?
WHO KNOWS WHETHER SHE'S SURVIVING ON HER OWN OR STARVING TO DEATH?
YOU MEANIE.
WELL, I'M SURE THAT SHE'S DOING FINE.
AFTER ALL, SHE IS THE HOLDER OF THOSE POWERS.

NOTE: SOYLENT GREEN WAS A POPULAR 1973 SCI-FI MOVIE. IT REFERS TO A FOOD PRODUCT OF A PROCESSED AND SYNTHETIC NATURE.
IT'S A PLANET GRACED BY SUNLIGHT, WITH ORGANISMS THAT SURVIVE ON THE GIFTS OF NATURE...
BUT IF ERIS IS OBTAINING FOOD RATIONS ON SITE...
IT MUST MEAN THAT SHE'S NOT EATING ANYTHING PROCESSED BY THE SOYLENT GREEN.
THERE MUST BE ALL KINDS OF FOOD THAT WE'VE NEVER EVEN SEEN BEFORE.
AND A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT CANDIES, TOO...
ほぅ... SIGH

002 A CAT-EARED FREELOADER

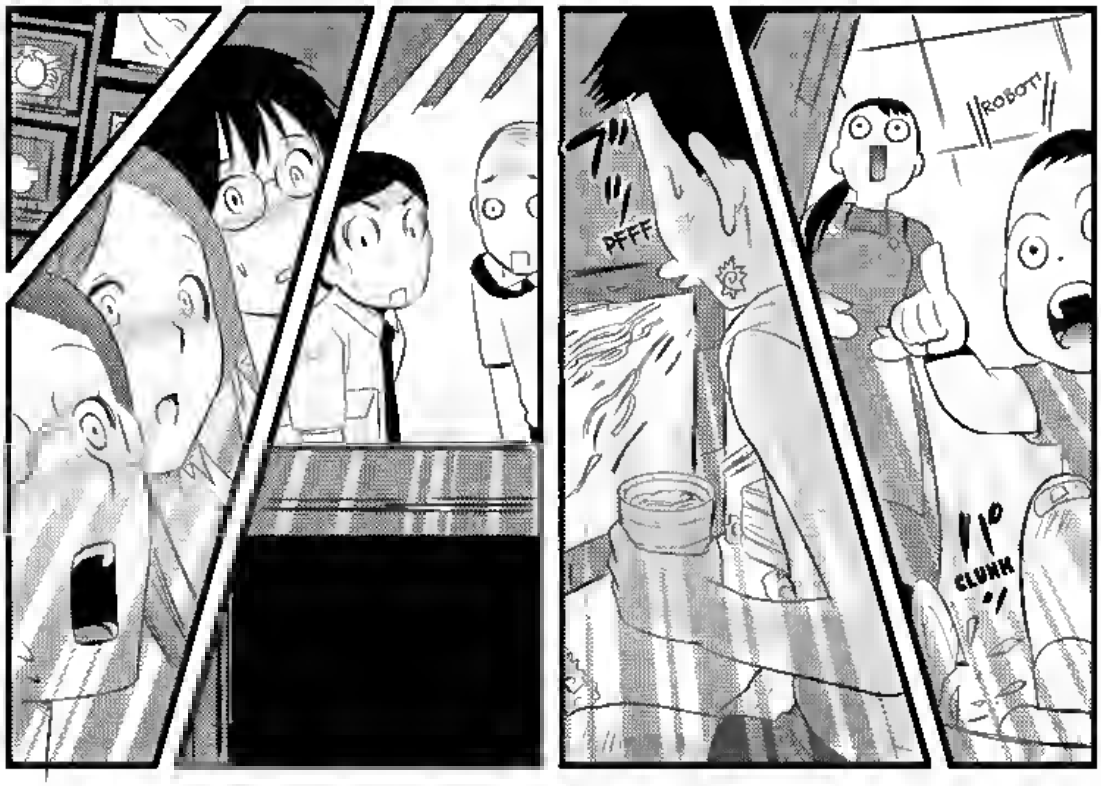

A-
A-A-A-ALIEN, YOU SAID?!
WHERE IN THE WORLD WOULD THERE BE AN ALIEN THAT LOOKS LIKE YOU?!
RIGHT...?
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT AT FIRST TOO...!
UP 'TIL NOW I DIDN'T THINK THERE WAS A SPECIES THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE US!
EVEN THE COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES SPENT THREE YEARS LOOMING AROUND THIS PLANET DEBATING THAT ISSUE!
AND WHO KNEW THAT WE DIDN'T NEED A TRANSLATOR TO COMMUNICATE IN THIS AREA, EITHER!
...!!
...!!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
SHOW ME SOME PROOF!

LEO POOOF-ONA
JINGLE
!!
WHAT'S WRONG, LUROS?
WHOA...
YOU SEE, THERE'S AN EMERGENCY.
THE SHIP WAS SPOTTED. IT SEEMS.
L-LOOK ...!!
WHAT? IT'S IN CAMOU-FLAGE MODE, ISN'T IT?
OF ONE THING. I AM SURE. THAT WAS NOT ACTIVATED.

OKINA
UNI
EVERY-BODY, PLEASE TAKE A LOOK!
HERE WE HAVE A GIGANTIC, SHINY, CHAM-PAGNE-GOLD OBJECT!
THIS UNKNOWN OBJECT WAS FOUND BY LOCAL FISHERMEN THIS MORNING.
IF WE CONNECT THIS EVENT WITH YESTERDAY'S REPORT OF THE MYSTERIOUS "LET'S GO PLAY" MESSAGE,
WE-WE-WE COULD REASONABLY ASSUME THE POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF EXTRATER-RESTRIAL LIFE FORMS...!!
WOW...
MY SHIP SURE IS WEAK...
SCRATCH
ANY WORDS ON THIS INCIDENT, PROFES-SOR UBU-SUNA?
YES, I THINK THAT IS A RATIONAL CONCLUSION HOWEVER, I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD ELIMINATE THE POSSIBILITY OF IT BEING A CON-SPIRACY AS WELL. IN ANY CASE, THE POTENTIAL EXPLA-NATIONS FOR THIS OCCURRENCE ARE COUNTLESS

WELL, IT WOULD BE TROUBLE-SOME IF WE GOT STUCK HERE... I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S... YOURS?
LET'S REACTI-VATE THE CAMOU-FLAGE SYSTEM, SHALL WE?
ACTIVATE PROGRAM A-24.
BOW
A-24
AFFIRMA-TIVE. PROGRAM A-24 ACTIVAT-ING.
THEN PROGRAM HE-11, PLEASE.
GOT IT.
HE-11
POOF
...IS THAT SHIP YOURS?
YUP, THAT WAS HOW I WAS ABLE TO GET HERE.
ALTHOUGH THE SHIP'S ONLY GOOD FOR TRAV-ELING TO THE PLANETS WITHIN THE SOLAR SYSTEM,
IT WOULD BE A GREAT INCONVE-NIENCE IF THEY DIDN'T RETURN IT TO ME...
I-IT'S A SPACE SHIP!!

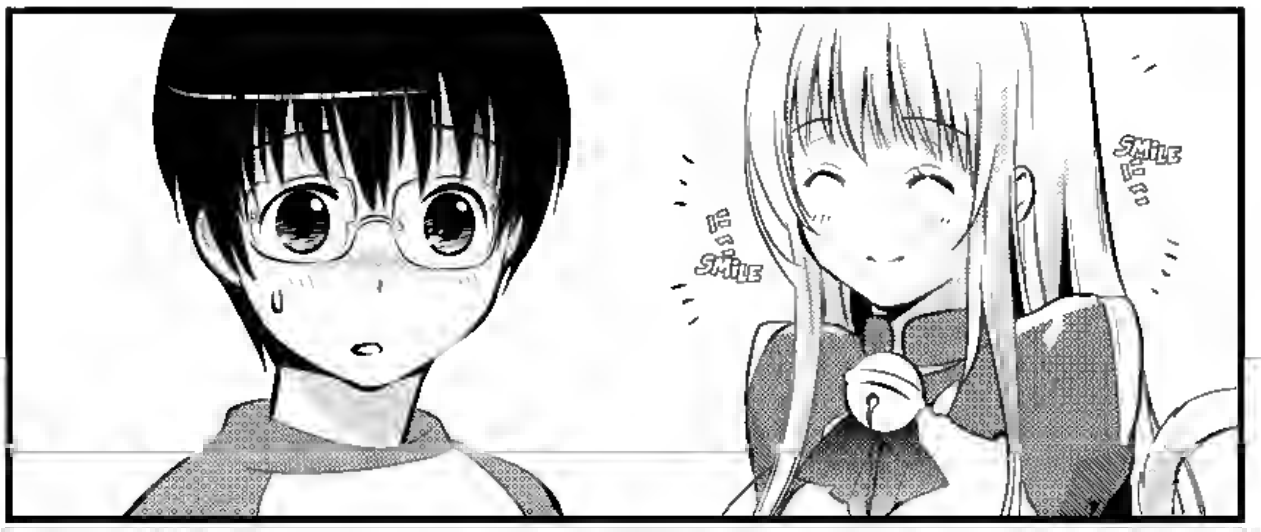
ROARRRR
WHOA!
あ、あぁ
AHHH!
SCCCCH


PFFF
ROBOT!
CLUNK

ぶぉん
hmmm
ぶぉん
hmmm
ドゥ
ドゥ
DONK
CLUNK
HELLO, WE ARE ALIENS.
IN THE TYPICAL ALIEN VOICE.→

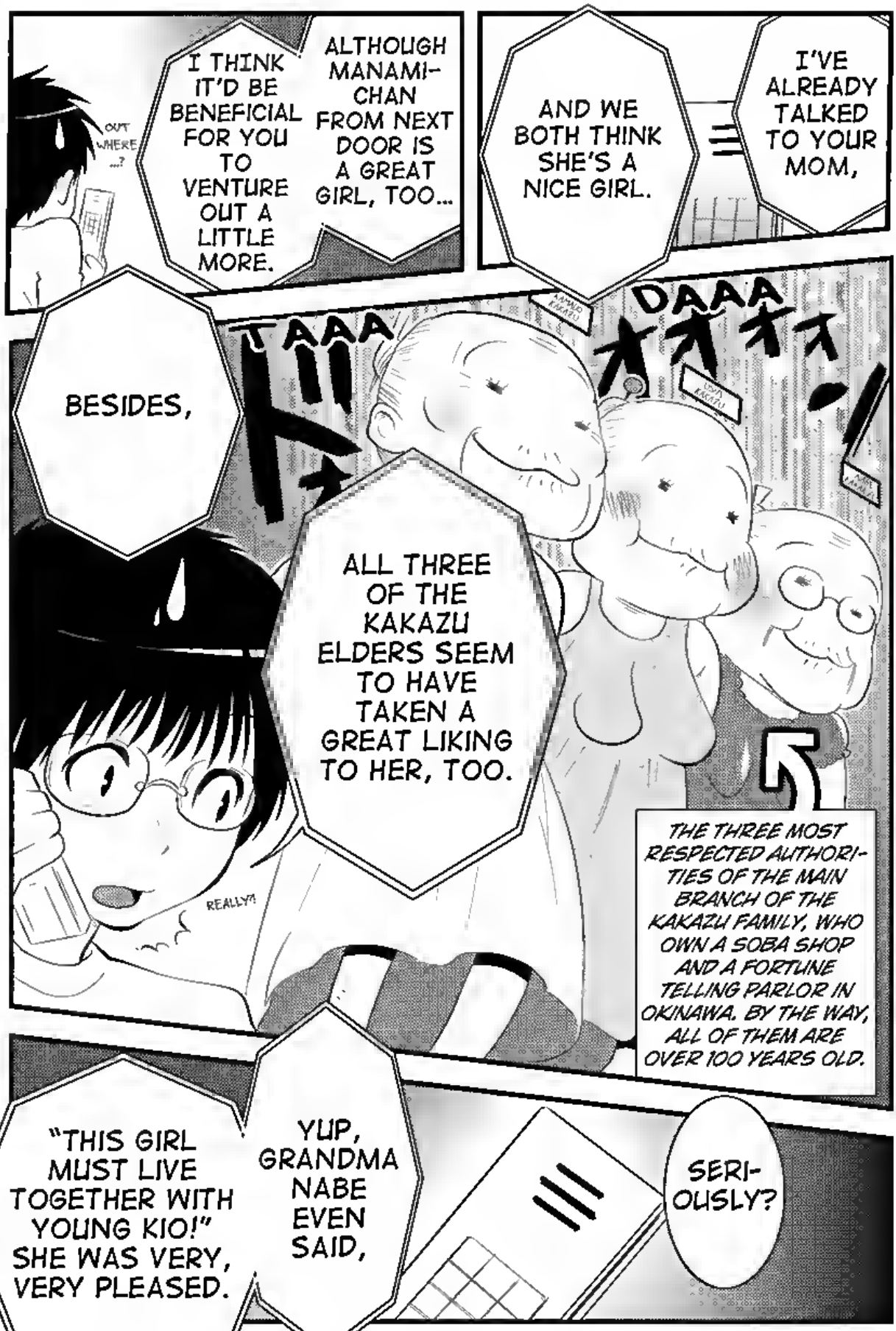
WE DO NOT WISH YOU ANY HARM.
HOWEVER, WE WILL ASSUME THE OFFENSIVE FOR ANY TROUBLES CAUSED IF BY CHANCE WE'RE CAUGHT.
SO PLEASE DO NOT TRY TO FIND US.
H-HERE WE CAN SEE A MYS-TERIOUS LIGHT SUR-ROUNDING THE SPACE SHIP...
GLARE
AND IT'S...
SILENCE
IT'S GONE...!
...

WOBBLE
WOBBLE
AS FOR THE ISSUE WITH THE RETREAT, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO DECIDE AMONGST YOUR-SELVES...
I-I'M NOT FEELING WELL...
U-UH, I GUESS I'LL BE GOING NOW...
WOBBLE
YES, BUT NOT THE TELEPOR-TATION OR DUPLICA-TION KIND...
SO... YOU'RE REALLY ARE AN ALIEN...?
I'M OFF
WELL, GOOD LUCK TO YOU, LITTLE KIO.
IT WOULD BE A GREATER PROBLEM IF YOU DID.
BZ...M
I CAN'T DO ANYTHING THAT ONE WOULD EXPECT AN ALIEN WOULD DO. LIKE SHOOTING LASER BEAMS FROM MY EYES OR ELEC-TROCUTING PEOPLE...



*STUDY GUIDE FOR GOVERNMENTAL WORKER'S EXAM

THIS IS MY REALITY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, KIO!
JUST LET HER STAY OVER FOR AWHILE.
W-WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S FINE ...?!


OUT WHERE ...?
I THINK IT'D BE BENEFICIAL FOR YOU TO VENTURE OUT A LITTLE MORE.
ALTHOUGH MANAMI-CHAN FROM NEXT DOOR IS A GREAT GIRL, TOO...
I'VE ALREADY TALKED TO YOUR MOM,
AND WE BOTH THINK SHE'S A NICE GIRL.
TAAA
DAAA
BESIDES,
ALL THREE OF THE KAKAZU ELDERS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN A GREAT LIKING TO HER, TOO.
REALLY?!
THE THREE MOST RESPECTED AUTHORITIES OF THE MAIN BRANCH OF THE KAKAZU FAMILY, WHO OWN A SOBA SHOP AND A FORTUNE TELLING PARLOR IN OKINAWA. BY THE WAY, ALL OF THEM ARE OVER 100 YEARS OLD.
SERIOUSLY?
YUP, GRANDMA NABE EVEN SAID,
"THIS GIRL MUST LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOUNG KIO!" SHE WAS VERY, VERY PLEASED.

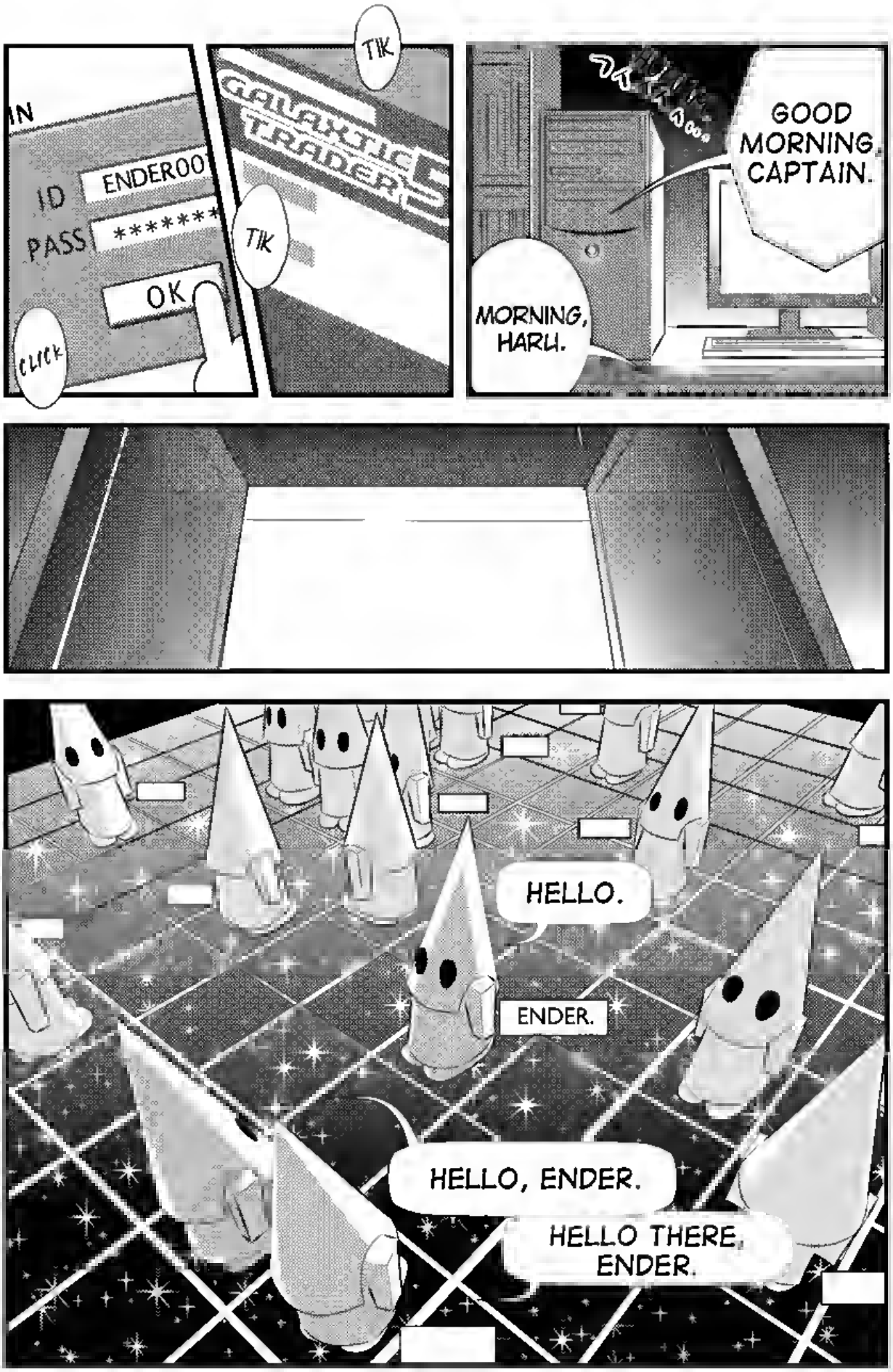
IT'S A LITTLE IMPROPER FOR US TO LIVE TOGETHER ...?
B-BUT DON'T YOU THINK...
KNOCK
KNOCK
YEAH!
COME ON IN!
OF COURSE NOT...! YOUR MOM WOULDN'T HAVE ALLOWED THAT.
THE FATHER WHO WOULD BRING ANYONE AND ANYTHING HOME WHEN DRUNK.
SO IT WASN'T BECAUSE YOU WERE DRUNK THAT YOU BROUGHT HER BACK...
FALLS
HOW OLD DID YOU THINK YOUR MOM WAS WHEN SHE HAD YOU...?
BUT OF COURSE, DON'T TRY TO DO ANYTHING STUPID. REMEMBER,
THE CONSENT OF BOTH PARTIES IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING, JUST LIKE YOUR MOM AND I.
?
B-BUT ...
WHAT IF SHE'S AN ALIEN?
SO WHAT?
Y'KNOW, SOMETIMES LOVE IS LIKE A GAME OF TAG, ONLY YOURS HAPPENS TO GAMBLE WITH EARTH'S FUTURE.

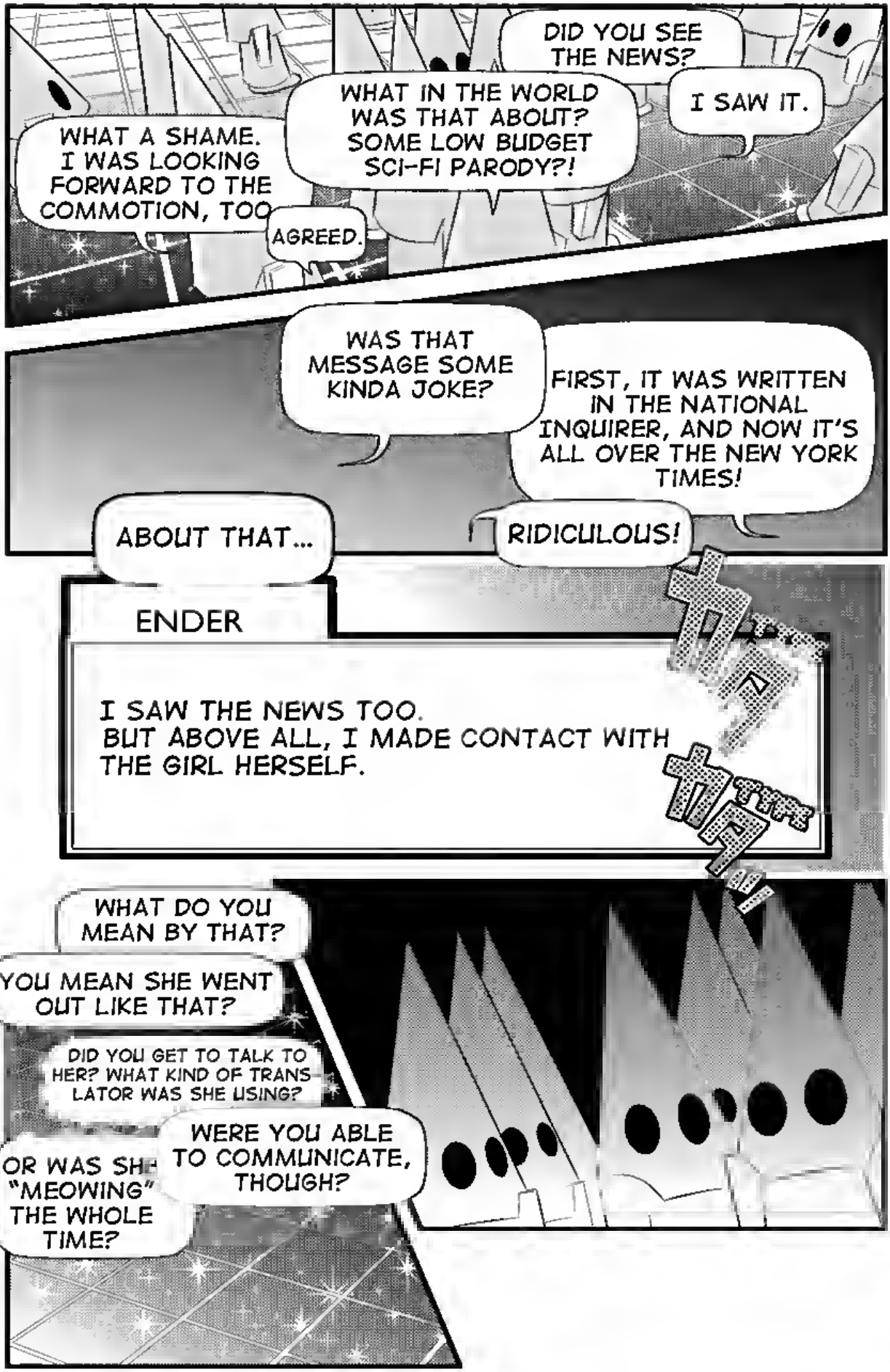
YOU'LL BE FINE...! DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE TRANS-FERRING LOTS OF MONEY TO YOU.
BYE FOR NOW...!
HE SAID IT'S FINE.
YOU CAN STAY HERE FOR THE TIME BEING.
SO WHAT BROUGHT YOU HERE, ERIS?
IT'S NOT FOR AN INVASION, IS IT?
OF COURSE NOT...! I CAME HERE TO ESTAB-LISH A FRIENDLY ALLIANCE.
IF I ATTEMPT TO TAKE OVER YOUR PLANET, THE UNIVERSAL REGULATION GOVERNMENT WOULD SURELY ANNIHILATE MY PEOPLE.
YAY!
REALLY? THAT'S GREAT...!!
PORK AND EGG MUSUBI

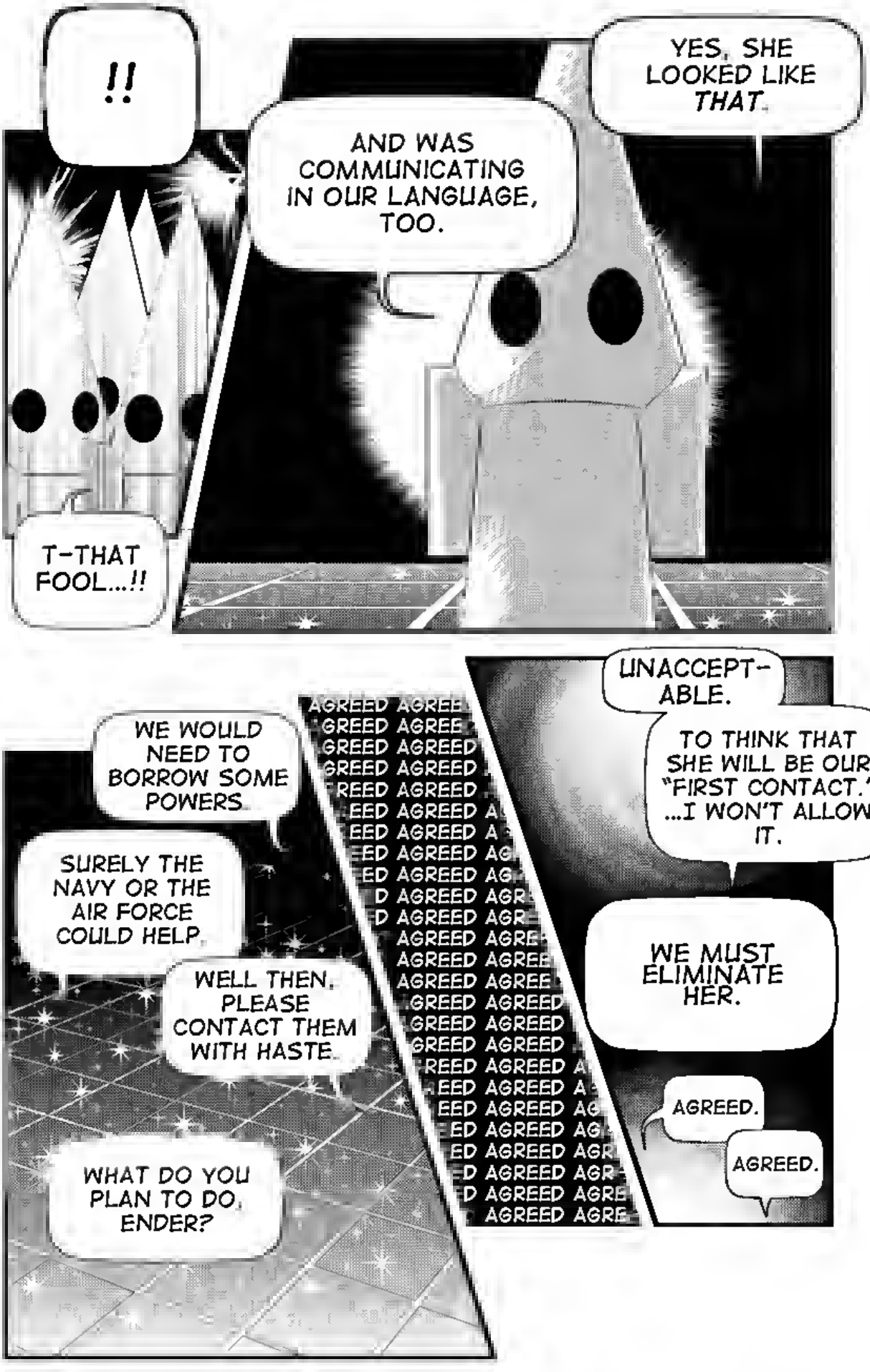
...THOUGH, ...EY WERE ...E ONES WHO ...NTRODUCED ...ARTH TO US...
HUDDER
SEE
みよよよLOOM
THEY'RE A SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE ORGANIZATION THAT'S MADE UP OF HIGHLY EVOLVED ORSONIANS WHO FUNCTION IN PURE SPIRIT FORMS...
THEY'RE VERY UNDERSTANDING PEOPLE, BUT SOMETIMES THEY CAN BE TERRIFYING AS WELL...
WE USUALLY JUST REFER TO OURSELVES AS EARTHLINGS,
BUT THAT COULD BE A LITTLE PUZZLING TO YOUR PEOPLE...
COME TO THINK OF IT... WHAT ARE YOU GUYS EXACTLY?
UM...
I GUESS YOU CAN CALL US CATIANS.
"CATIANS," I SEE...
SIP
BUT I'M GLAD EVERYTHING WORKED OUT...
HEHE
EARTH IS REALLY A GREAT PLACE.

IS THAT SO?
WELL, IT'S NICE THAT THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE IS WITHIN THE 30°C RANGE...
NOTE: 30°C IS EQUIVALENT TO 86°F.
AND THE PLANET ITSELF IS NOT TOO FAR FROM THE STARS. THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL STRUCTURE IS NOT SO DIFFERENT FROM OURS, EITHER...
I SEE ...
WOW, SHE'S REALLY OBSERVANT.
N TERMS OF WEAKNESSES, I'D SAY THAT THE NEGATIVITY IS MORE ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH INDIVIDUALS' PERCEPTIONS OF MORALITY AND PERSPECTIVE CAN VARY,
BUT RATHER, IT SEEMS, THAT RELIGION STILL DICTATES THE WAY MANY PEOPLE MAKE JUDGMENTS.
BUT THAT'S REALLY A WHOLE OTHER ISSUE.
WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO...
AND A LONG TIME TOO.
YOU THINK SO?
YUP, SURELY.
!

NOTE: UMEBOSHI IS A JAPANESE-STYLED PICKLED RED PLUM THAT IS USUALLY EATEN WITH WHITE RICE.
MY MOM DOESN'T LIKE THEM SO WE DON'T HAVE UMEBOSHI IN OUR RICE BALLS.
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT IN THERE.
YOU MEAN UME-BOSHI?
YOU KNOW THAT SOFT, RED FOOD THAT TASTES REALLY SOUR...?
UM...
MUNCH
MUNCH
OH! THEY'RE ANDANSU-FLAVORED! SO DELICIOUS... ♥
THANK GOOD-NESS!!
NOTE: ANDANSU IS AN OKINAWA-STYLED COOKING THAT IS ALSO CALLED ABURA MISO— NAMELY, MISO MIXED WITH PORK FAT AND MEAT.


IN
ID ENDER00
PASS *******
OK
click
TIK
GALAXTIC TRADER
TIK
GOOD MORNING, CAPTAIN.
MORNING, HARU.
HELLO.
ENDER.
HELLO, ENDER.
HELLO THERE, ENDER.


DID YOU SEE THE NEWS?
I SAW IT.
WHAT IN THE WORLD WAS THAT ABOUT? SOME LOW BUDGET SCI-FI PARODY?!
WHAT A SHAME. I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMMOTION, TOO
AGREED.
WAS THAT MESSAGE SOME KINDA JOKE?
FIRST, IT WAS WRITTEN IN THE NATIONAL INQUIRER, AND NOW IT'S ALL OVER THE NEW YORK TIMES!
ABOUT THAT...
RIDICULOUS!
ENDER
I SAW THE NEWS TOO. BUT ABOVE ALL, I MADE CONTACT WITH THE GIRL HERSELF.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
YOU MEAN SHE WENT OUT LIKE THAT?
DID YOU GET TO TALK TO HER? WHAT KIND OF TRANS-LATOR WAS SHE USING?
WERE YOU ABLE TO COMMUNICATE, THOUGH?
OR WAS SHE "MEOWING" THE WHOLE TIME?


!!
T-THAT FOOL...!!
AND WAS COMMUNICATING IN OUR LANGUAGE, TOO.
YES, SHE LOOKED LIKE THAT.
WE WOULD NEED TO BORROW SOME POWERS.
SURELY THE NAVY OR THE AIR FORCE COULD HELP.
WELL THEN, PLEASE CONTACT THEM WITH HASTE.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO, ENDER?
AGREED AGREED
UNACCEPT-ABLE.
TO THINK THAT SHE WILL BE OUR "FIRST CONTACT." ...I WON'T ALLOW IT.
WE MUST ELIMINATE HER.
AGREED.
AGREED.

I WILL TRY MY BEST NOT TO AFFLICT OTHER NORMAL CITIZENS
GOOD LUCK TO YOU, ENDER
PLEASE DON'T GIVE UP, ENDER
I'M PLANNING TO...
HUNT HER DOWN MYSELF.
TAP
IT'S ALL FOR THE "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT."
TO THE "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT."
TO THE "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT."
TO THE "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT."
TO THE "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT."
IT'S ALL FOR THE "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT"

AH... MEOW♪
YAWN♥
I'M SO FULL AND IT FEELS GRRRREAT!
ROLL
FLIP
FLIP
ROLL
SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT THIS OMINOUS FEELING...
HUH?

KINJŌ MANAMI

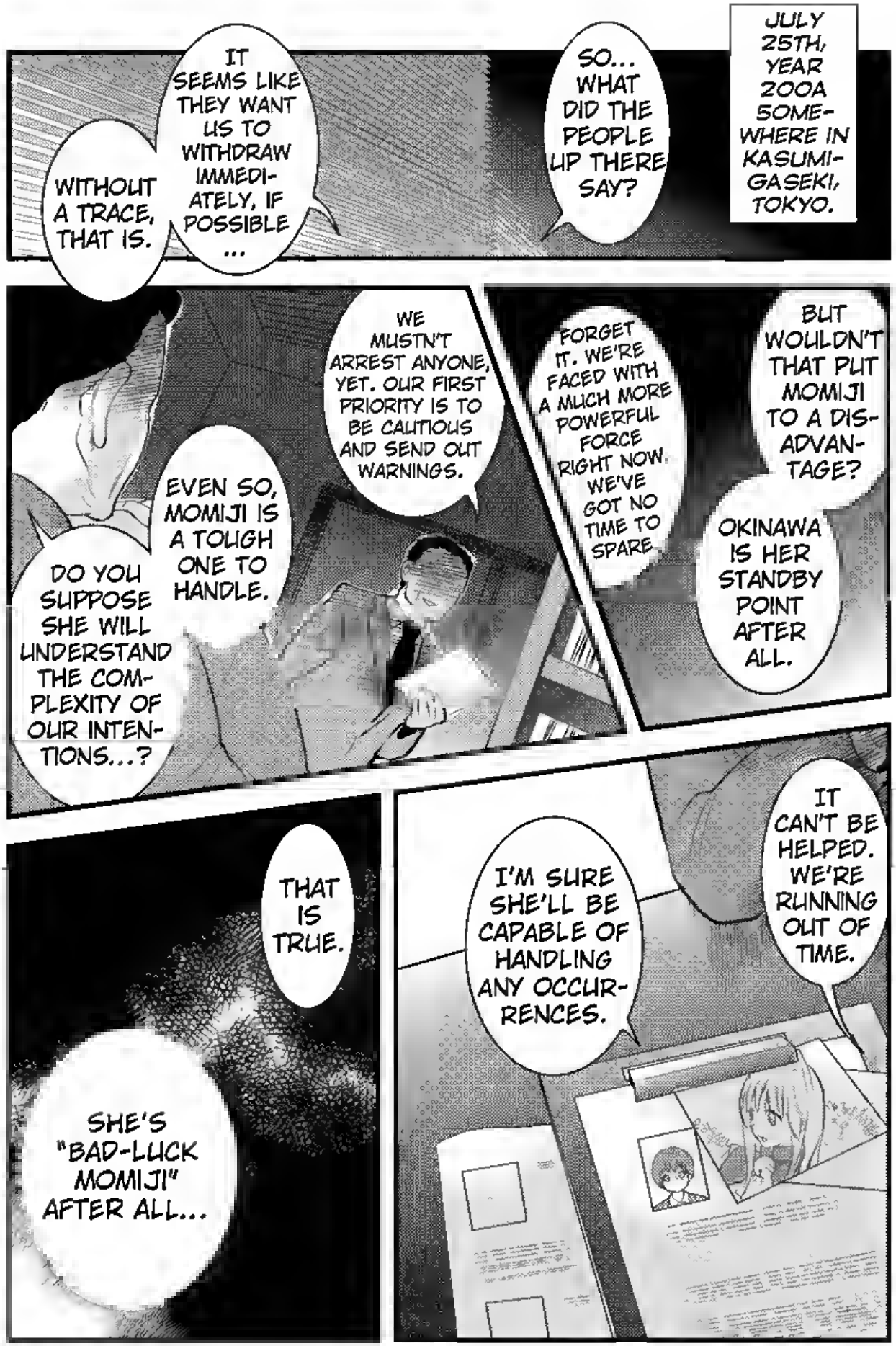
HEIGHT: 159CM
WEIGHT: 50KG
BUST: 80(B) / WAIST: 55 / HIP: 82

KIO'S NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND.
MANAMI TENDS TO TAKE AN AUTHORITATIVE MANNER WHEN BOTH OF THEM ARE ALONE, SO KIO FEELS A LITTLE INTIMIDATED BY HER DEMEANOR AT TIMES. BECAUSE OF HER GREAT PHYSIQUE AND LOOKS, MANAMI IS ACTUALLY QUITE POPULAR AT SCHOOL.
COULD SHE BE HIDING SOME KIND OF SECRET NOW THAT HER MYSTERIOUS PERSONAL MODEL GUN COLLECTION WAS REVEALED...?

CHAYKA

HEIGHT: 145 CM (CAT EARS INCLUDED)
WEIGHT: 19KG (INFORMATION SOURCE: CATIA)
BUST: 65 (A) / WAIST: 45 / HIP: 50

CHAYKA'S A CREW MEMBER OF THE CATIAN STARSHIP NEAR THE SOLAR SYSTEM. ALTHOUGH SHE LOOKS YOUNG, HER STATUS IS RATHER PROFOUND. BECAUSE SHE IS AN IMPORTANT MEMBER, THE BELL SHE WEARS IS IN SILVER; WHEREAS FOR ONSITE SCOUTS, LIKE ERIS, THE BELLS ARE IN GOLD.
IN ANY CASE, ALL CATIANS HAVE 4 EARS, A PRIMARY PAIR ON THE TOP AND A HUMAN-ESQUE SECONDARY PAIR.

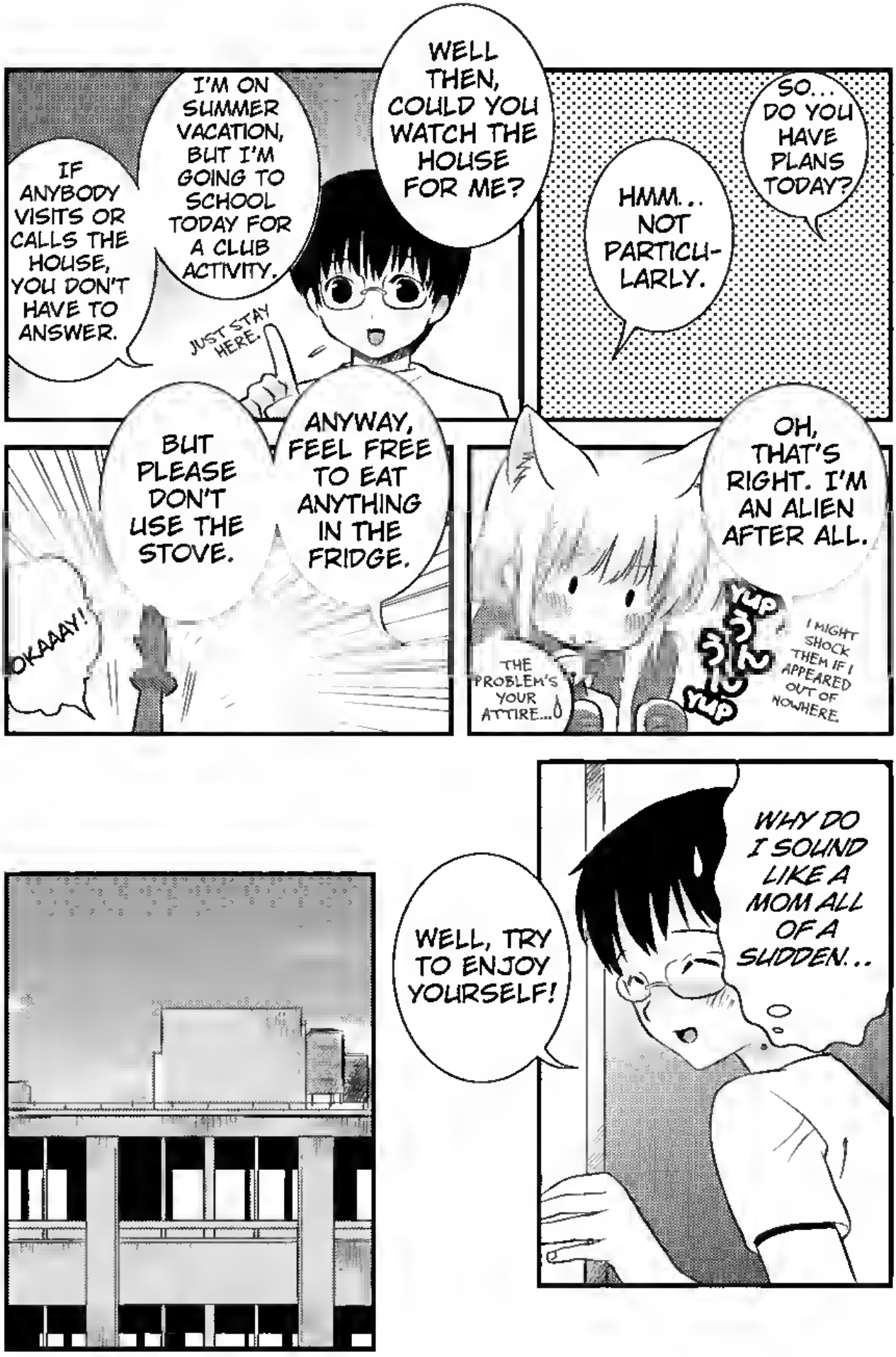

JULY 25TH, YEAR 200A SOMEWHERE IN KASUMIGASEKI, TOKYO.
SO... WHAT DID THE PEOPLE UP THERE SAY?
IT SEEMS LIKE THEY WANT US TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY, IF POSSIBLE ...
WITHOUT A TRACE, THAT IS.
BUT WOULDN'T THAT PUT MOMIJI TO A DISADVANTAGE?
FORGET IT. WE'RE FACED WITH A MUCH MORE POWERFUL FORCE RIGHT NOW. WE'VE GOT NO TIME TO SPARE
OKINAWA IS HER STANDBY POINT AFTER ALL.
WE MUSTN'T ARREST ANYONE, YET. OUR FIRST PRIORITY IS TO BE CAUTIOUS AND SEND OUT WARNINGS.
EVEN SO, MOMIJI IS A TOUGH ONE TO HANDLE.
DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE WILL UNDERSTAND THE COMPLEXITY OF OUR INTENTIONS...?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
I'M SURE SHE'LL BE CAPABLE OF HANDLING ANY OCCURRENCES.
THAT IS TRUE.
SHE'S "BAD-LUCK MOMIJI" AFTER ALL...

003 "COMPANY GIRLS"

のびー
RELAXED
HMMM...
THIS SURE IS NICE ...
にゃは～～
MEOW～～
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO JUST LIE AROUND ALL DAY SINCE I CAME TO EARTH.
U-UH... SINCE WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE HERE?
HM...
EIGHT DAYS AGO, I THINK?
FIDGET
FIDGET
ぷにっ
SOFT
りん♡
BOUNCY

MAN, THOSE WERE SOME TOUGH TIMES, I TELL YOU...!
I HAD ACCIDENTALLY LEFT MY FOOD SUPPLIES BEHIND, SO I WAS STARVING!
BUT EVEN THEN I DIDN'T KNOW WHO TO CALL FOR HELP ...
WARD OF VIPER SNAKES.
RUSTLE
WHOA!
"ACCIDENTALLY" ...?
ISN'T FOOD THE MOST IMPORTANT THING...?
ANYWAY, WHILE I WAS STARVING TO DEATH I CAME ACROSS AURA.
UGH...
HE SAID "THOSE GUYS OVER THERE WILL HELP YOU,"
AND DIRECTED ME TO YOUR WHEREABOUTS.
A CAT ...
NAMED AURA?
WHO'S "AURA"?
JUST A PASSERBY, I SUPPOSE ...
OH, OOPS! I MEANT A PASSING "CAT".
I'M GONNA DRINK THIS.

THAT'S ACTUALLY OUR CAT.
IT'S BEEN A HABIT OF HIS TO ROAM AROUND TOWN...
A PAIR OF SCOTTISH FOLD EARS.
A COLLAR ENGRAVED IN RUNIC ALPHABETS.
FLUFFY TAIL.
WHITE PAWS.
YES! EXACTLY LIKE THAT!
DID HE LOOK LIKE THIS...?
BUT JUST AS AURA SAID, EVERYBODY HERE IS SO KIND.
YOU ALL TOOK ME IN WITHOUT A SECOND THOUGHT...
WELL... I WANDERED OFF SOMEWHERE A BIT MORE ...
AGAIN ...?!
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
NODDING
I'M REALLY GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE TO ENJOY ALL THOSE GOOD TIMES WITH EVERYBODY, WITH THE SONGS AND THE DANCES ...
THANK YOU SO MUCH.
I-IT'S NO PROBLEM AT ALL...


SO... DO YOU HAVE PLANS TODAY?
HMM... NOT PARTICULARLY.
WELL THEN, COULD YOU WATCH THE HOUSE FOR ME?
I'M ON SUMMER VACATION, BUT I'M GOING TO SCHOOL TODAY FOR A CLUB ACTIVITY.
IF ANYBODY VISITS OR CALLS THE HOUSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER.
JUST STAY HERE.
ANYWAY, FEEL FREE TO EAT ANYTHING IN THE FRIDGE.
BUT PLEASE DON'T USE THE STOVE.
OKAAAY!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. I'M AN ALIEN AFTER ALL.
I MIGHT SHOCK THEM IF I APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE.
YUP YUP YUP
THE PROBLEM'S YOUR ATTIRE...
WHY DO I SOUND LIKE A MOM ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WELL, TRY TO ENJOY YOURSELF!

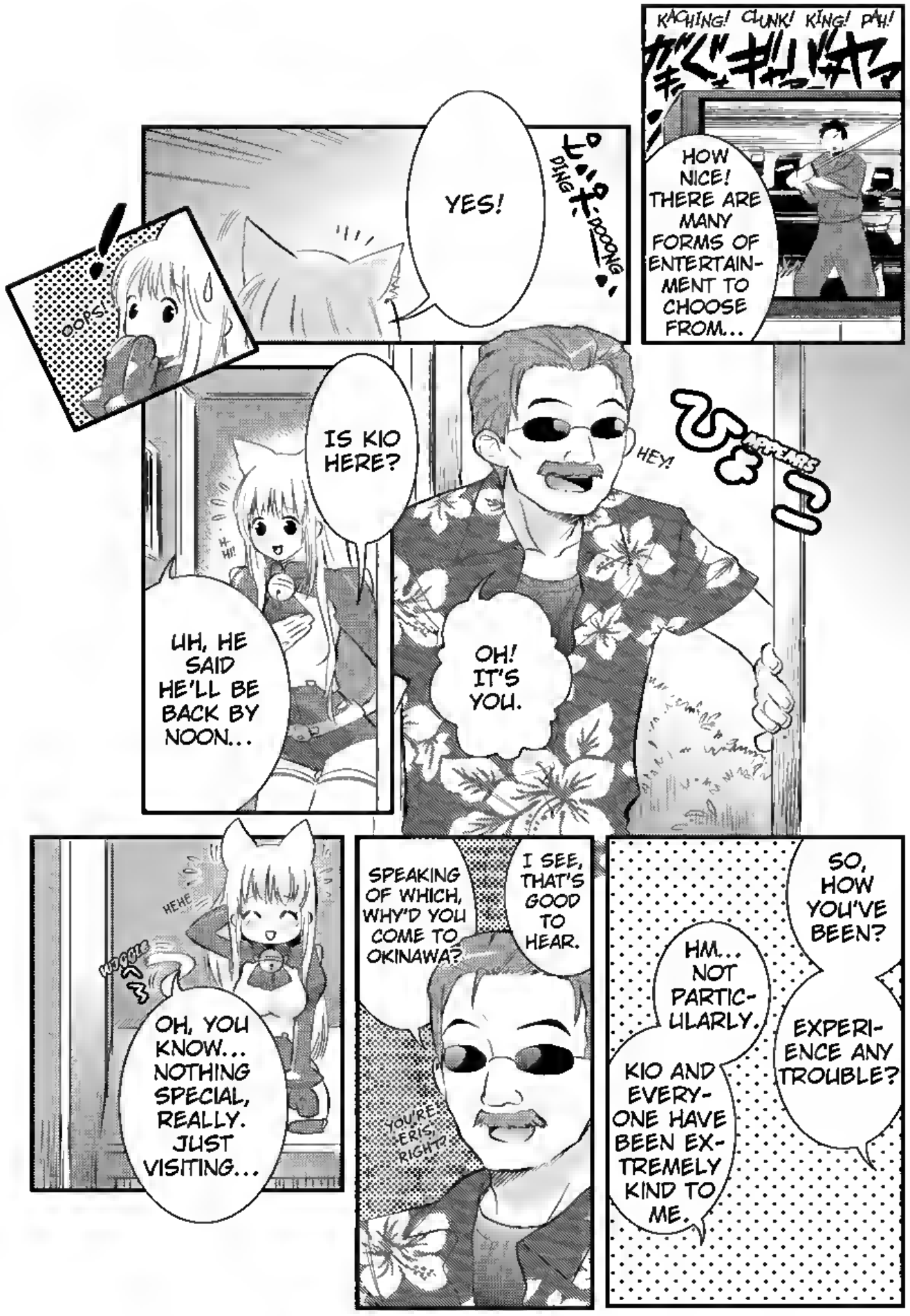
FILM & MEDIA CLUB ROOM
WHAT?! SHE'S LETTING US LOOSE?
AND SHE SAID SHE'S TAKING A SHORT BREAK?!
WOW, THAT'S RARE COMING FROM A TEACHER AS DISCIPLINED AS ITOKAZU-SENSEI.
THOUGH, IT IS NICE IF WE'RE FREE TO DO WHATEVER WE WANT.
YUUUP. IT'S IMPORTANT TO START OUT WITH SHOOTING WHATEVER WE WANT.
AND SINCE WE'RE WORKING DIGITALLY, WE CAN ALWAYS EDIT AND RE-SHOOT.
VICE PRESIDENT
NOW THAT THE TEACHER'S NOT HERE...
SO HOT TODAY.
WE SHOULD GO AHEAD AND DECIDE WHAT WE WANT TO SHOOT.
PRESIDENT
ANY SUG-GESTIONS FROM THE FRESHMEN?
PERHAPS THERE'S A SCENE IN A MOVIE YOU'VE WATCHED RECENTLY THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY RECREATING?
AH, I DO!
BESIDES THE BULLET SCENE FROM THE MATRIX, OF COURSE.

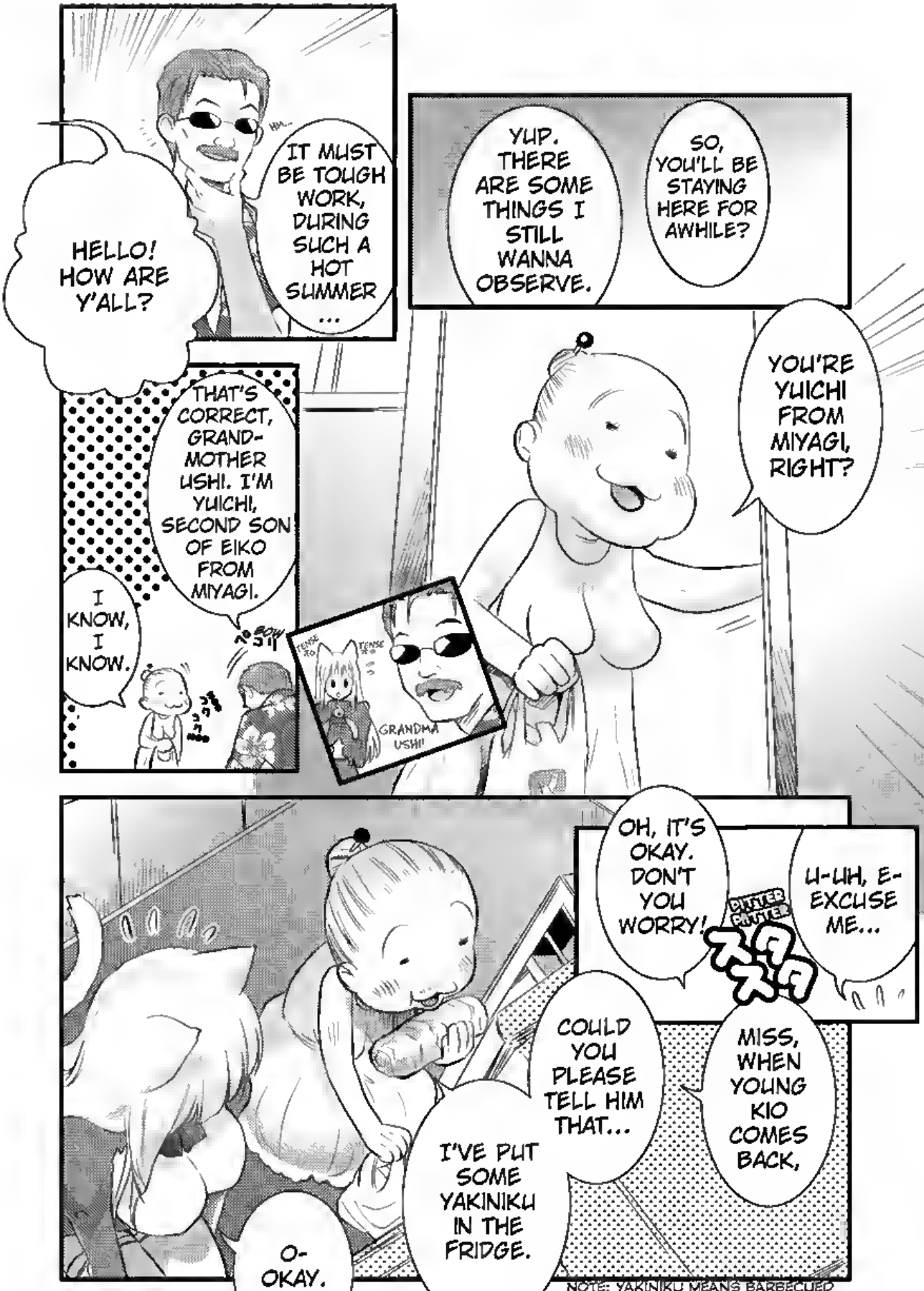
A HELLISH PROCESS INVOLVING MULTIPLE SHOTS TAKEN BY NUMEROUS CAMERAS PLACED IN A CIRCLE.

WE'D NEED LOTS OF TENACITY, ALONG WITH SOME ROPE AND FLAT BOARDS.
I WANNA DO THAT THING WHERE THE CAMERA FOLLOWS A PERSON MOVING THROUGH A NARROW PLACE THAT PUSH CARS CAN'T GET THROUGH!
THAT REQUIRES A LOT OF GUTS.
AND THEN RECORDING THE RAPID TIRE MOVE-MENTS?
HOW ABOUT PUTTING THE CAMERA UP CLOSE TO A RUNNING CAR,
VROOM!
VROOM!
VROOM!
WE COULD TRY TO DO SOMTHING SUS-PENSE-FUL,
HERE
LIKE HAVING THE CAMERA ZOOM IN ON A PERSON WHILE THE BACK-GROUND SLOWLY RECEDES...
THE "VERTIGO ZOOM," I SEE.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE MODEL?
NO DRESS CODE DURING SUMMER VACATION
KIO, ASK MANAMI-CHAN TO BE THE ACTRESS!
WELL THEN, DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANYBODY IN MIND...?
BOO!!
BOO!!
BOO!!
SINCE OUR FILM IS ONLY AROUND AN HOUR, MAYBE SOMEONE IN THE CLUB CAN—

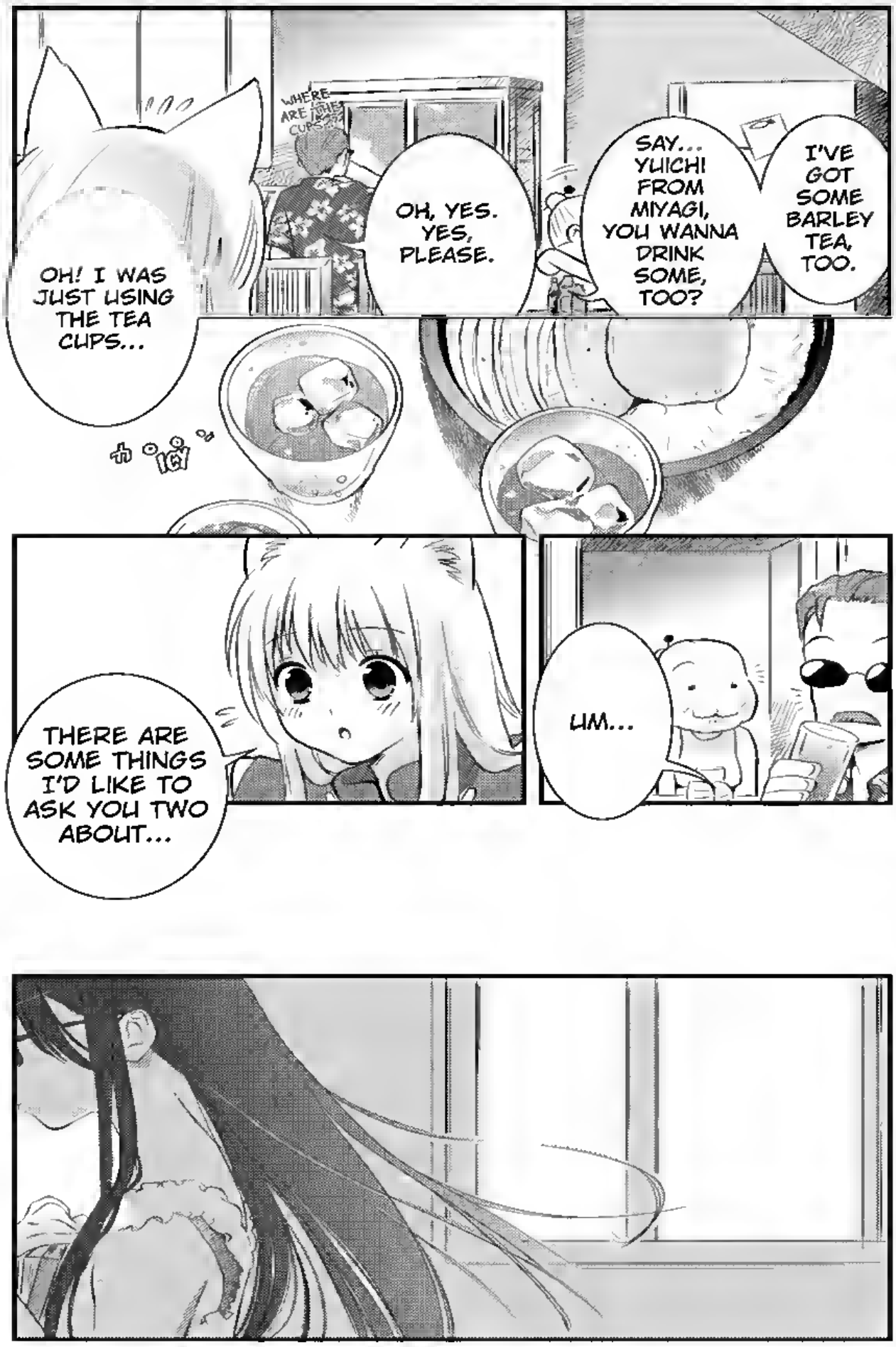
VOTE ON IT!!
イーベント!!
CUTE
THAT'S RIGHT! AREN'T YOU TWO NEIGHBORS AND CHILDHOOD FRIENDS?
N-NO WAY! PLEASE DON'T MAKE SUCH REQUESTS!!
FLAG!!
フラーグ!!
GREAT! BRING HER HERE, KAKAZU!
SLAM
ガラ
PLUS, IT SEEMS LIKE MANAMI-CHAN'S GOT A BOY-FRIEND ALREADY.
SPARE ME, I'M RAISING MY WHITE FLAGS ALREADY.
O-OF COURSE!
FOOEY!
PSH... IS IT REALLY THAT DIFFICULT?
I DIDN'T KNOW KINJŌ WAS GOING OUT WITH SOMEONE.
I OVERHEARD HER ON THE PHONE WITH THIS GUY NAMED JACK.
OH, YEAH... KINJŌ'S FATHER WORKS ON THE AMERICAN NAVY BASE, RIGHT?
COME TO THINK OF IT...
I WAS PRETTY SHOCKED TOO WHEN I FIRST FOUND OUT ABOUT IT...
MIIN
MIIN
MIIN

LET'S SEE...
OF COURSE, I KNOW THAT BEING NEIGHBORS DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN ANYTHING...
BUT SOMEHOW I FEEL LIKE BECAUSE OF THIS DISCOVERY I BECAME MORE CAPABLE OF REBUKING MANAMI-CHAN'S SPITEFUL REMARKS THESE DAYS.
SEE YA!
BYE!
LET'S GO EAT!
NOW I MUST GO FIND FUTABA.
AHHHHH...
BEEP


KACHING! CLUNK! KING! PAH!
HOW NICE! THERE ARE MANY FORMS OF ENTERTAIN-MENT TO CHOOSE FROM...
DING-DOONG
YES!
OOPS!
IS KIO HERE?
HI!
UH, HE SAID HE'LL BE BACK BY NOON...
HEY!
OH! IT'S YOU.
HEHE
OH, YOU KNOW... NOTHING SPECIAL, REALLY. JUST VISITING...
SPEAKING OF WHICH, WHY'D YOU COME TO OKINAWA?
I SEE, THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.
YOU'RE ERIS, RIGHT?
SO, HOW YOU'VE BEEN?
HM... NOT PARTIC-ULARLY.
EXPERI-ENCE ANY TROUBLE?
KIO AND EVERY-ONE HAVE BEEN EX-TREMELY KIND TO ME.


HELLO! HOW ARE Y'ALL?
IT MUST BE TOUGH WORK, DURING SUCH A HOT SUMMER ...
I KNOW, I KNOW.
THAT'S CORRECT, GRAND-MOTHER USHI. I'M YUICHI, SECOND SON OF EIKO FROM MIYAGI.
BOW
TENSE XO
TENSE
GRANDMA USHI
YUP. THERE ARE SOME THINGS I STILL WANNA OBSERVE.
SO, YOU'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR AWHILE?
YOU'RE YUICHI FROM MIYAGI, RIGHT?
O-OKAY.
I'VE PUT SOME YAKINIKU IN THE FRIDGE.
COULD YOU PLEASE TELL HIM THAT...
MISS, WHEN YOUNG KIO COMES BACK,
U-UH, E-EXCUSE ME...
OH, IT'S OKAY. DON'T YOU WORRY!
DRIVER PANTIES

NOTE: YAKINIKU MEANS BARBECUED MEAT IN JAPANESE.


WHERE ARE THE CUPS?
OH, YES. YES, PLEASE.
SAY... YUICHI FROM MIYAGI, YOU WANNA DRINK SOME, TOO?
I'VE GOT SOME BARLEY TEA, TOO.
OH! I WAS JUST USING THE TEA CUPS...
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU TWO ABOUT...
UM...

HEY, FUTABA.
JUMP
H-HELLO...
KAKAZU-KUN.
DID THE MEETING FOR KIN-SHŌKEN END ALREADY?
UM... YES...
FUTABA IS AS PALE AS EVER...
IT MUST BE HARD HAVING TO KEEP MISSING SCHOOL BECAUSE OF FREQUENT HOSPITAL APPOINT-MENTS.
BUT IT'S GOOD TO SEE THAT SHE SEEMS TO BE DOING WELL...

KINSHOKEN: KINDAI SHŌSETSU KENKYUKAI, CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE CLUB

HERE ARE THE DVDS I BORROWED FROM YOU LAST TIME.
THANKS!
OH...
OKAY ...
UM... SO... WHAT DID YOU THINK?
WELL, KOYAANISQATSI HAD SOME REALLY INTERESTING CINEMATOGRAPHY!
ESPECIALLY WITH THOSE CONTINUOUS SHOTS OF ONE STREET AFTER ANOTHER. IT REALLY SEEMED TO HARBOR SOME KIND OF SIGNIFICANCE WHEN YOU TAKE A SECOND LOOK.
THOUGH IN MY OPINION, GAIA SYMPHONY WAS MUCH MORE OF A SHOCKER.
I'M GLAD...
SEEMS LIKE YOU ENJOYED THEM...
YUP!

I FIRST GOT TO KNOW FUTABA AT THE DVD STORE WHERE BOTH OF US HAPPENED TO BE LOOKING FOR THE SAME THING.
OH!
IT WAS A LIMITED EDITION OF AN UNCOMMON GENRE THAT WAS HARD TO COME BY IN NORMAL STORES.
ALTHOUGH I KNEW HER FACE, I WASN'T AWARE THAT FUTABA AND I SHARED SIMILAR INTERESTS.

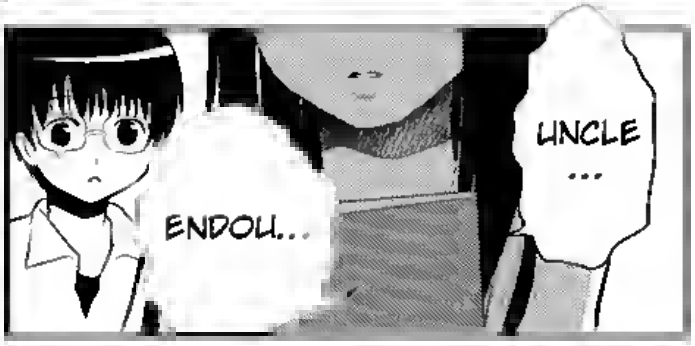
YOU MEAN THE ONE STARRING CHARLIE CHAPLIN?
SHAKE
NO... THEY JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE THE SAME TITLE...

ARE THERE ANY OTHER FILMS BY THE DIRECTOR OF RAINBOW KIDS?
HM... I'LL BRING YOU WESTWARD DESPERADO, SENGOKU YARŌ, AND THE AGE OF ASSASSINS NEXT TIME...

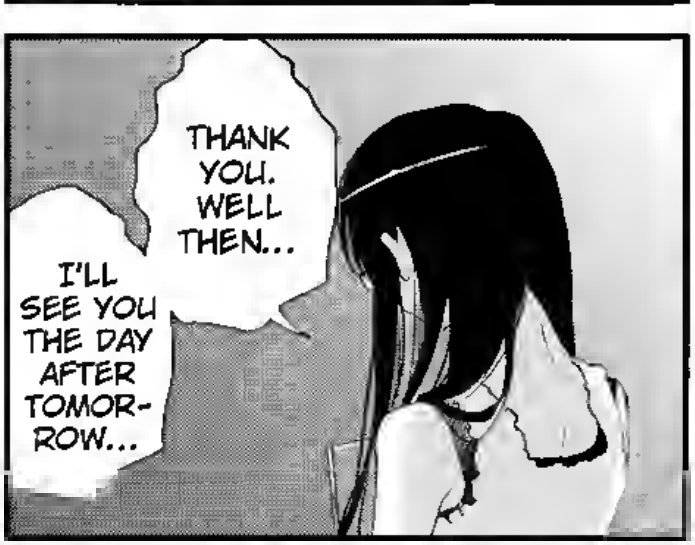
O-OH, I SEE. SORRY!
N-NO, IT'S OKAY ...
AS A DIRECTOR, KINPACHI OKAMOTO IS LESS POPULAR AND MAINSTREAM THAN AKIRA KUROSAWA AFTER ALL...
AS FLEETING AS THESE MOMENTS MAY BE,
IT'S ALWAYS PLEASANT TO BE AROUND HER.

FRIENDSHIP...
U-UM... KAKAZU-KUN.
WHAT IS IT, FUTABA?
THUMP
THUMP
IF YOU DON'T MIND...DO YOU WANT TO GO TO THE DVD STORE WITH ME...?
HUH?
I-I WAS WONDER-ING... ARE YOU FREE TODAY?
A FEW HOURS SHOULD BE OKAY... RIGHT?
WHAT'S WITH THIS VISION.
SURE, I'D LOVE TO.
GREAT ...!

キィ
SCREECH!!!


ENDOU...
UNCLE ...

Y-YEAH, THAT'S FINE, I GUESS.
SORRY, KAKAZU-KUN. CAN WE MEET UP LATER?


THANK YOU. WELL THEN...
I'LL SEE YOU THE DAY AFTER TOMOR-ROW...

OH, HELLO.
FANCY SEEING YOU HERE, FUTABA'S LITTLE AOI.
GRIN
GRIN
ARE YOU HEADING HOME? HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A RIDE?

HE HASN'T FOUND OUT ABOUT YOUR TRUE IDENTITY YET, HAS HE...?

TRUE. BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED IF WE'RE FACED WITH A PRESSING ISSUE.
ISN'T THAT... AGAINST THE RULES?

?
NEVERTHE-LESS, I'M IMPRESSED. YOU'VE GOT IT COVERED SO QUICKLY.
FLIP
カシ

HAVEN'T THEY TOLD YOU YET? YOUR TARGET FOR THIS MISSION IS KAKAZU KIO.
OR RATHER, THE ALIEN WHO'S STAYING WITH HIM, RIGHT NOW.
IF HE ENDS UP BEING A HINDRANCE, FEEL FREE TO ELIMINATE HIM.
THIS TARGET IS A+ CLASSIFIED, WHICH MEANS WE GET UNLIMITED BUDGET.
THEY WANT HER AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.
SINCE THE CIA WANTS THIS CASE, THE SUPERIORS ARE GETTING A LITTLE RESTLESS.
SPEAKING OF THE ALIEN...
DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GET ANYTHING OUT OF THAT GUY?
KAKAZU ...
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS ASSIGNMENT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NOTHING" ...?
...HE'S JUST A CLASS-MATE.
"CLASS-MATE," HUH? I SAW YOU CHATTING WITH HIM.
LOOK AT YOU, AREN'T YOU ADAPTING WELL?
EVEN AS AN UNDERCOVER AGENT, YOU'RE SMILING AND LAUGHING, AND MAKING FRIENDS AS IF YOU WERE A NORMAL PERSON...
HA HA
SOMEONE AS HEART-LESS AND CRUEL AS YOU!
HA HA HA
HOW INTER-ESTING.
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF EXPRESSION HE'D MAKE IF HE FOUND OUT WHO YOU REALLY ARE.

NSOMIA
CLICK
!!
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
BUT BEFORE THAT, I'LL DEFINITELY KILL YOU.

BUT I'LL KILL YOU JUST BECAUSE I FEEL LIKE IT.
NOT THAT YOU'RE A HINDRANCE TO MY WORK OR ANYTHING.
I-IF YOU SHOOT ME, THE CAR WILL...
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THAT'S NOT GOING TO PUT A SINGLE CUT ON ME.
I'M "BAD-LUCK MOMIJI," Y'KNOW.

SCREEEEEEEEECH
キャ
キャ
キャ
キャ
AHA-HA-HAHA!
HAHA HA!
HAH!
THUD

SWOOSH
FWISH
"DISTANCE TELEPORTATION"
THIS EXTRAORDINARY POWER...
THE ABILITY TO OBTAIN ANYTHING IN HER HANDS IN THE MATTER OF SECONDS.
AND A MISFORTUNE THAT PREVAILS IN ANY DEATH-CAUSING CONDITIONS...
SHE IS...

JUST KIDDING.
JAPANESE IMMIGRATION BUREAU, SPECIAL AGENT. CODE NAME: "MOMIJI"

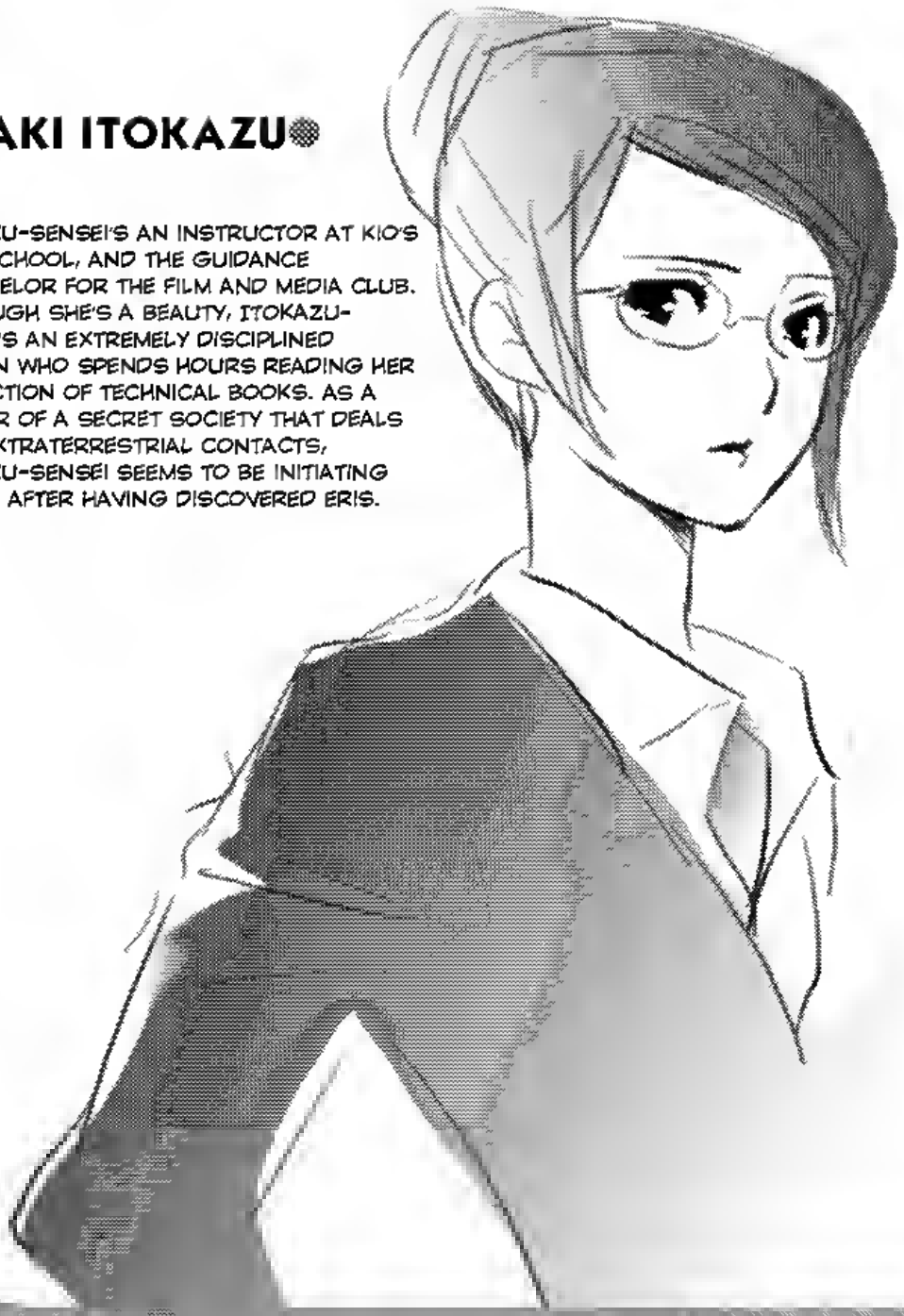
AOI FUTABA

HEIGHT: 163CM
WEIGHT: 40KG
BUST: 70(A) / WAIST: 45 / HIP: 60

AOI WORKS FOR THE JAPANESE IMMIGRATION BUREAU, AS A SPECIAL AGENT UNDER THE CODE NAME MOMIJI. DESPITE HER FRAIL APPEARANCE, SHE'S INFAMOUSLY KNOWN AS "BAD-LUCK MOMIJI" BECAUSE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY POWER TO SURVIVE ANY DEATH-CAUSING SITUATION WITHOUT A SINGLE SCRATCH.
AN EXPERT IN MARTIAL ARTS AND MACHINERY, AOI WAS RAISED LIKE A ROBOT. HOWEVER, SOMETHING INSIDE HER SEEMED TO CHANGE AFTER SHE MET KIO.

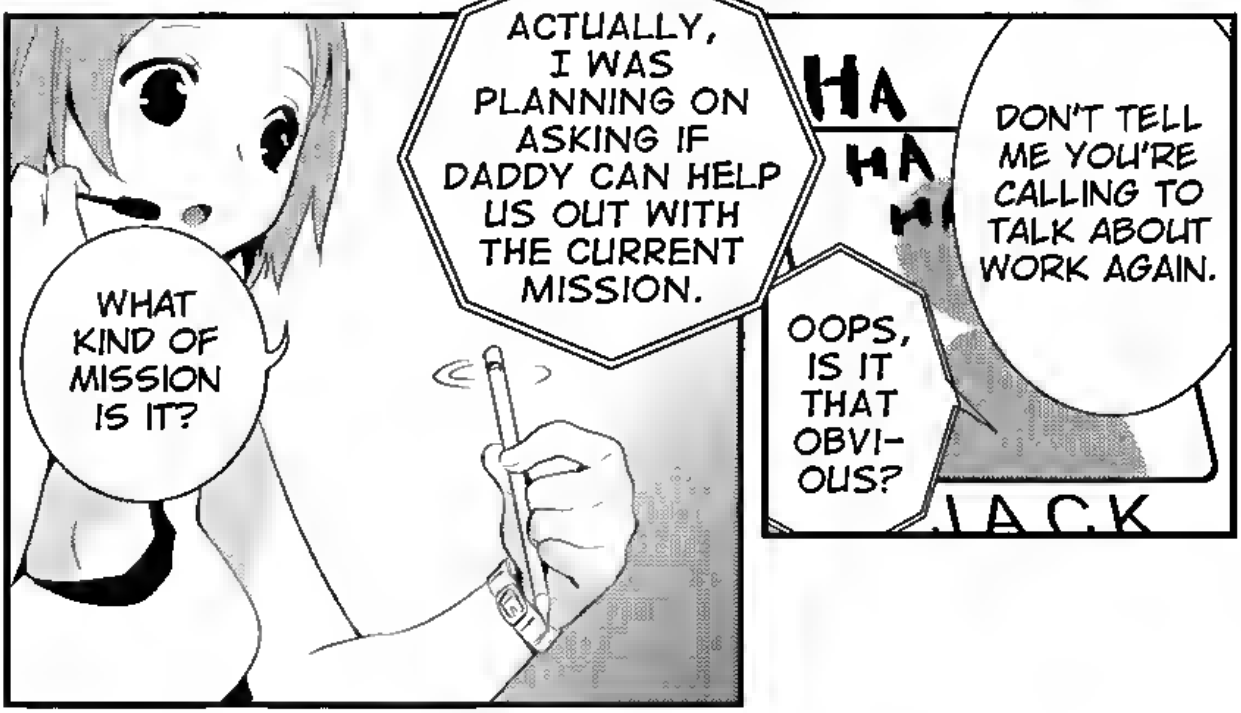
MAKI ITOKAZU

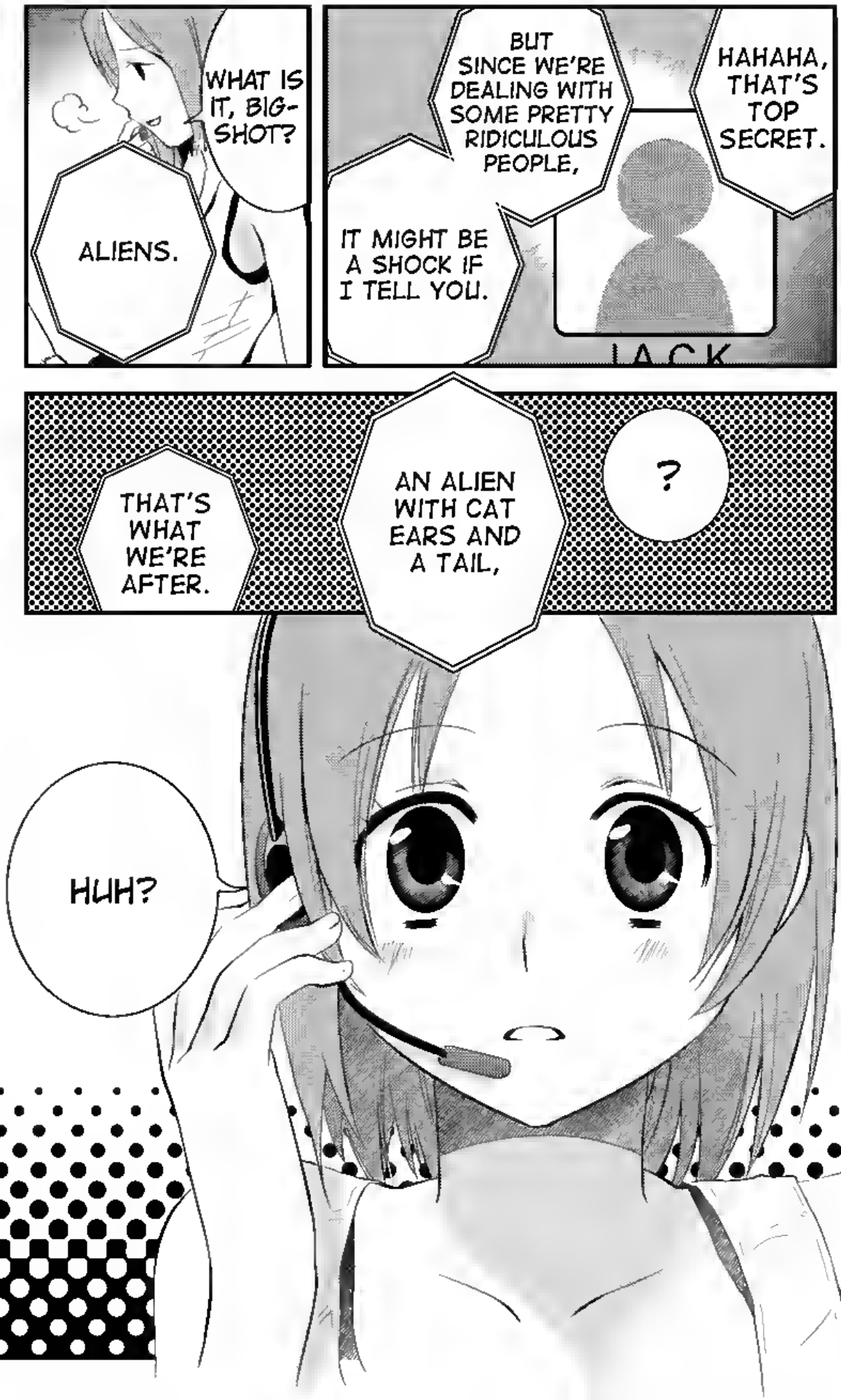
ITOKAZU-SENSEI'S AN INSTRUCTOR AT KIO'S HIGH SCHOOL, AND THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR FOR THE FILM AND MEDIA CLUB. ALTHOUGH SHE'S A BEAUTY, ITOKAZU-SENSEI'S AN EXTREMELY DISCIPLINED PERSON WHO SPENDS HOURS READING HER COLLECTION OF TECHNICAL BOOKS. AS A MEMBER OF A SECRET SOCIETY THAT DEALS WITH EXTRATERRESTRIAL CONTACTS, ITOKAZU-SENSEI SEEMS TO BE INITIATING ACTION AFTER HAVING DISCOVERED ERIS.



004 THE BARBECUE WAS DELICIOUS!

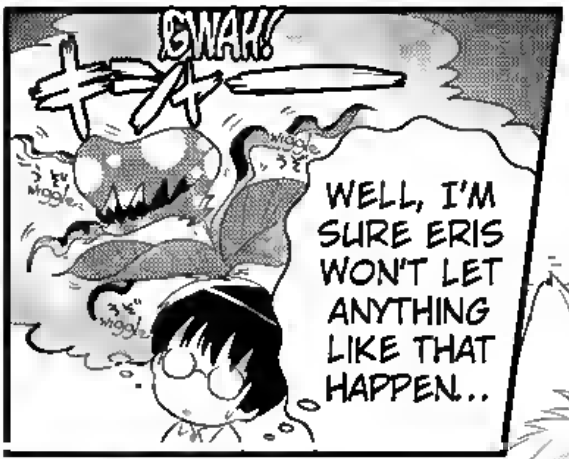
J.A.C.K
BEEP
BEEP
JUMPS
HEY, JACK!!
HI, MANAMI!!
HOW ARE YOU DOING?


ACTUALLY, I WAS PLANNING ON ASKING IF DADDY CAN HELP US OUT WITH THE CURRENT MISSION.
WHAT KIND OF MISSION IS IT?
HA HA HA
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE CALLING TO TALK ABOUT WORK AGAIN.
OOPS, IS IT THAT OBVI-OUS?
J.A.C.K


WHAT IS IT, BIG-SHOT?
ALIENS.
BUT SINCE WE'RE DEALING WITH SOME PRETTY RIDICULOUS PEOPLE,
IT MIGHT BE A SHOCK IF I TELL YOU.
HAHAHA, THAT'S TOP SECRET.
JACK
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE AFTER.
AN ALIEN WITH CAT EARS AND A TAIL,
?
HUH?

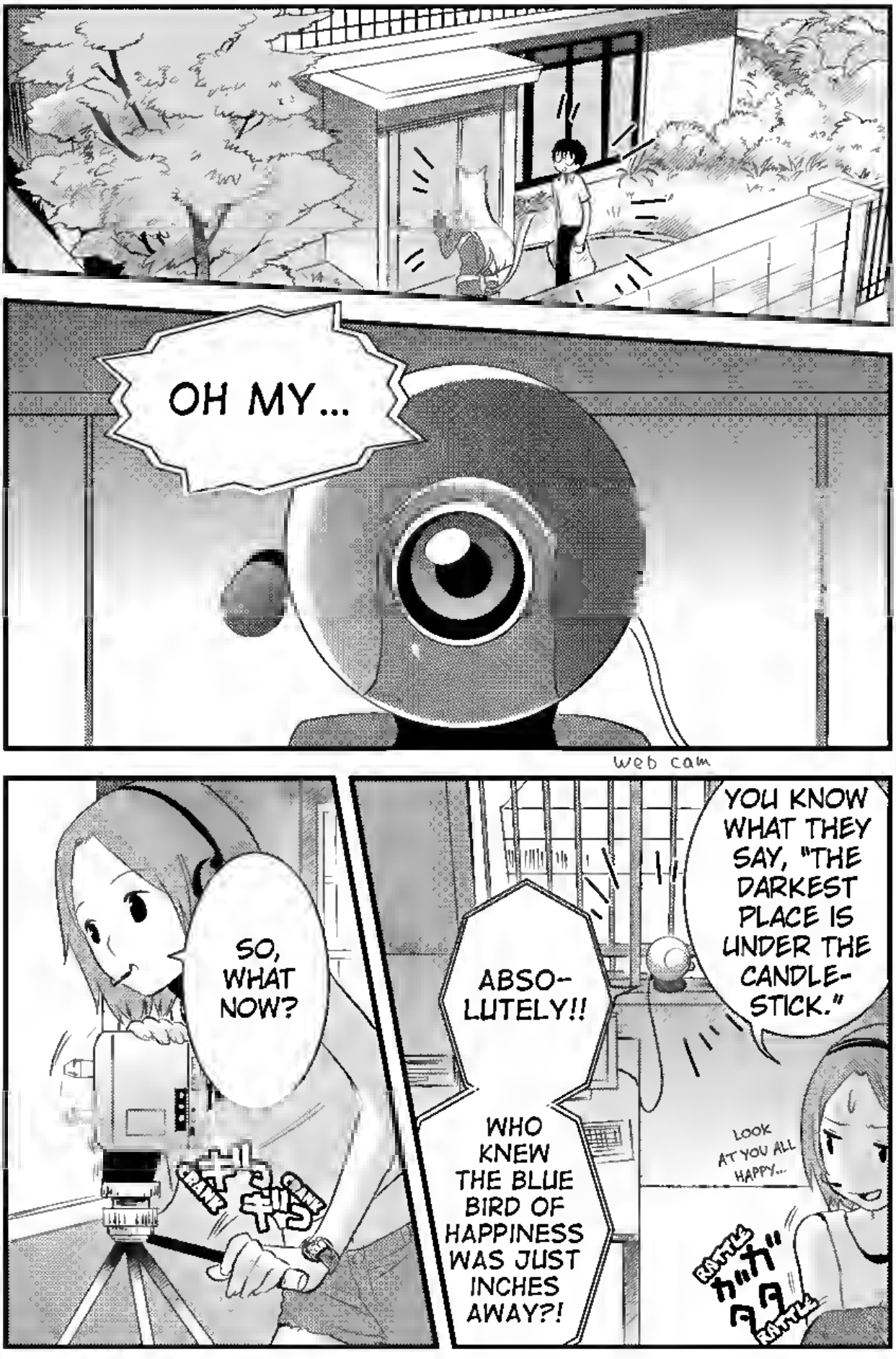
MIIN
MIIN
WELCOME BACK, KIO!
ERIS.
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHAT HAPPENED?
SORRY TO BORROW THESE WITHOUT ASKING.
BUT I REALLY NEEDED THE SOIL HERE...
W-W-WHAA?

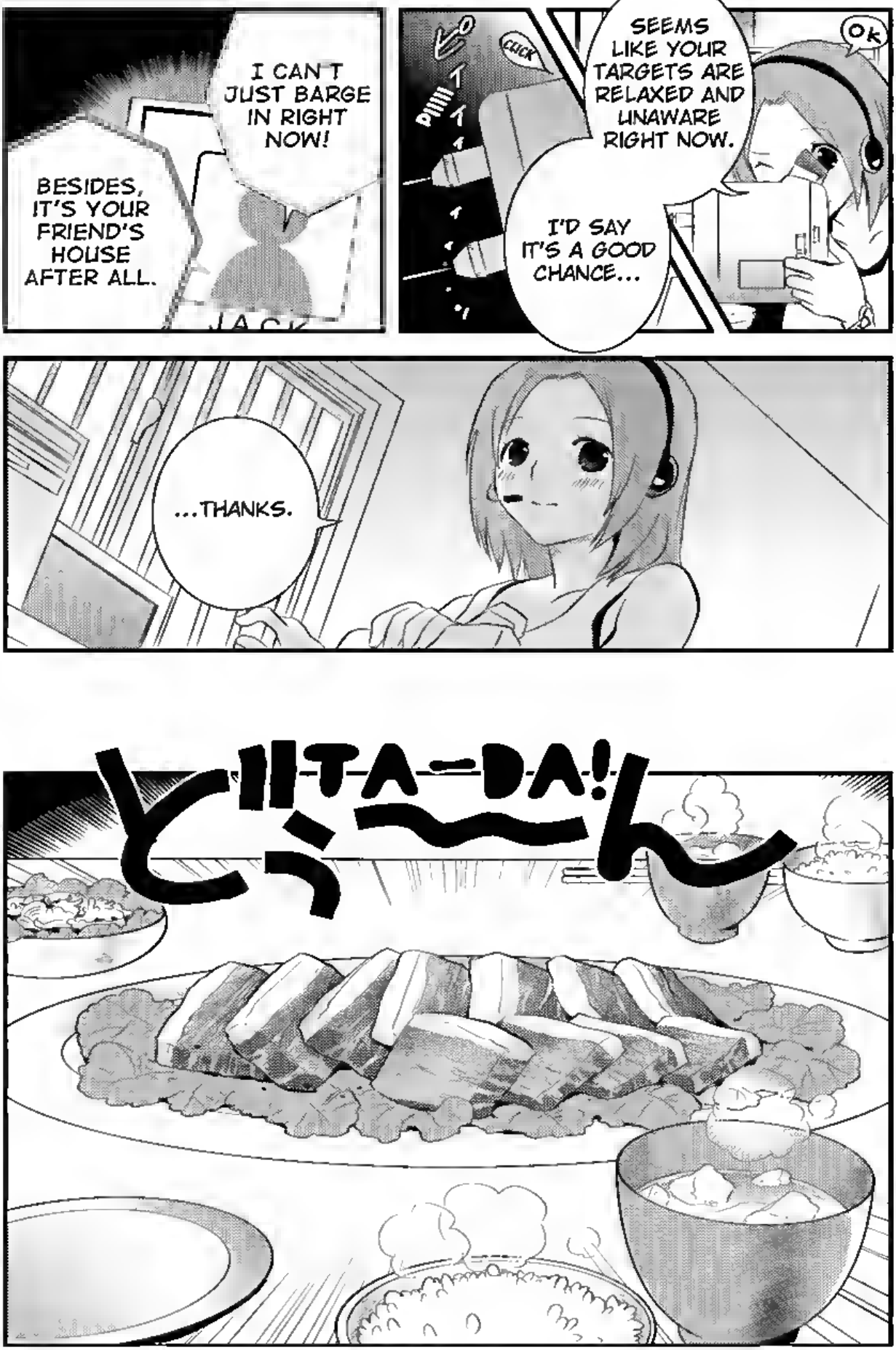
YUP, THE NUTRIENTS IN THE SOIL TO BE EXACT.
ERIS.
THE SOIL?


GWAH!
WELL, I'M SURE ERIS WON'T LET ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPEN...

I'M GONNA MAKE US DINNER.
YAY!
OH, I'LL HELP!

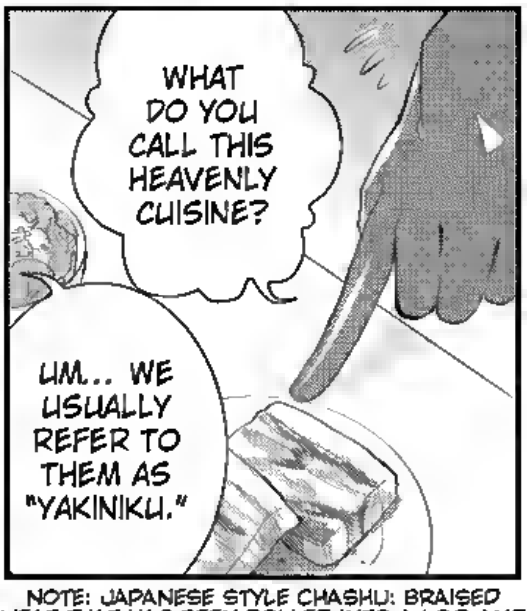
IT'S NECESSARY FOR MY INVESTIGATION.
DID YOU PLANT A SEED?
HM... I GUESS YOU CAN SAY THAT.
WE'LL JUST LEAVE IT HERE FOR NOW UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.


OH MY...
web cam
SO, WHAT NOW?
ABSO-LUTELY!!
WHO KNEW THE BLUE BIRD OF HAPPINESS WAS JUST INCHES AWAY?!
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, "THE DARKEST PLACE IS UNDER THE CANDLE-STICK."
LOOK AT YOU ALL HAPPY...


I CAN'T JUST BARGE IN RIGHT NOW!
BESIDES, IT'S YOUR FRIEND'S HOUSE AFTER ALL.
PIIII
CLICK
SEEMS LIKE YOUR TARGETS ARE RELAXED AND UNAWARE RIGHT NOW.
I'D SAY IT'S A GOOD CHANCE...
OK
...THANKS.
ITA-DA!

DELICIOUS! THIS IS SO GOOD!!
O-OKAY?
YOU WEREN'T PUT OFF BY THE WAY IT LOOKS AT FIRST...?
TREMBLE
THE TENDER SWEETNESS AND THE FLAVORFUL SMELL OF THE BLACK PORTION, ALONG WITH THE CHEWY COMPLEXITY OF THE CHILLED MEAT...
TOPPED WITH THE FATTY MEAT THAT FAINTLY DISSOLVES INTO THE WARM RICE.
shiver
OH, MY...

BUT I GUESS IT'S MORE ACCURATE TO SAY IT'S "CHASHU MEAT COOKED ROAST BEEF-STYLE."
HM... HOW SHOULD I EXPLAIN THIS BETTER?
ROAST BEEF IS... UH...



NOTE: JAPANESE STYLE CHASHU: BRAISED MEAT THAT HAS BEEN ROLLED INTO A LOG AND SEASONED WITH SOY SAUCE AND HONEY.

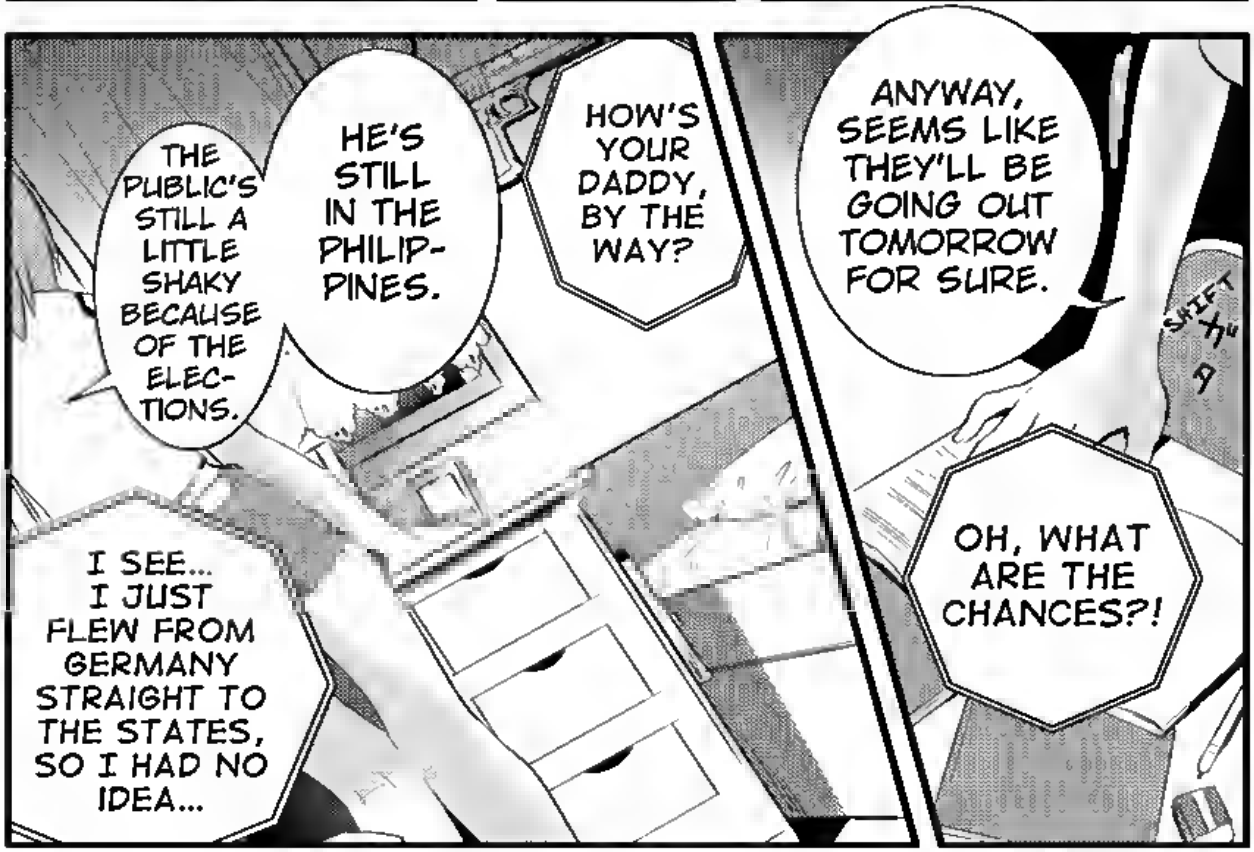
I WANT TO DOUBLE-CHECK SOME INFORMATION, IN CASE DIGITAL MEDIA IS BIASED SINCE EVERYBODY CAN ACCESS AND EDIT THEM.
IF IT'S POSSIBLE, COULD YOU SHOW ME WHERE THE LIBRARY IS?
ABOUT TO-MORROW ...
WELL, I ASSUME THAT THE INTERNET WILL PROVIDE MOST OF WHAT I NEED TO KNOW... OH, THAT'S RIGHT!
ARE THEY CLOSE BY?
ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES WALKING DISTANCE?
OH ...
THERE'S THE PREFECTURAL LIBRARY, AND THE CITY LIBRARY.
HM...
I DO HAVE A SPECIAL ENGINEERED SUIT THAT HAS A BUILT-IN AIR CONDITIONING, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A GIANT MECHA...
ZOOM
ZOOM
WELL ...
...IS THE WEATHER TOO HOT?
YOU'RE A CAT AFTER ALL
わ YAH!
IT'S OKAY, LET'S JUST TAKE A TAXI.
わ YAY!
THEY'VE GOT AC TOO.

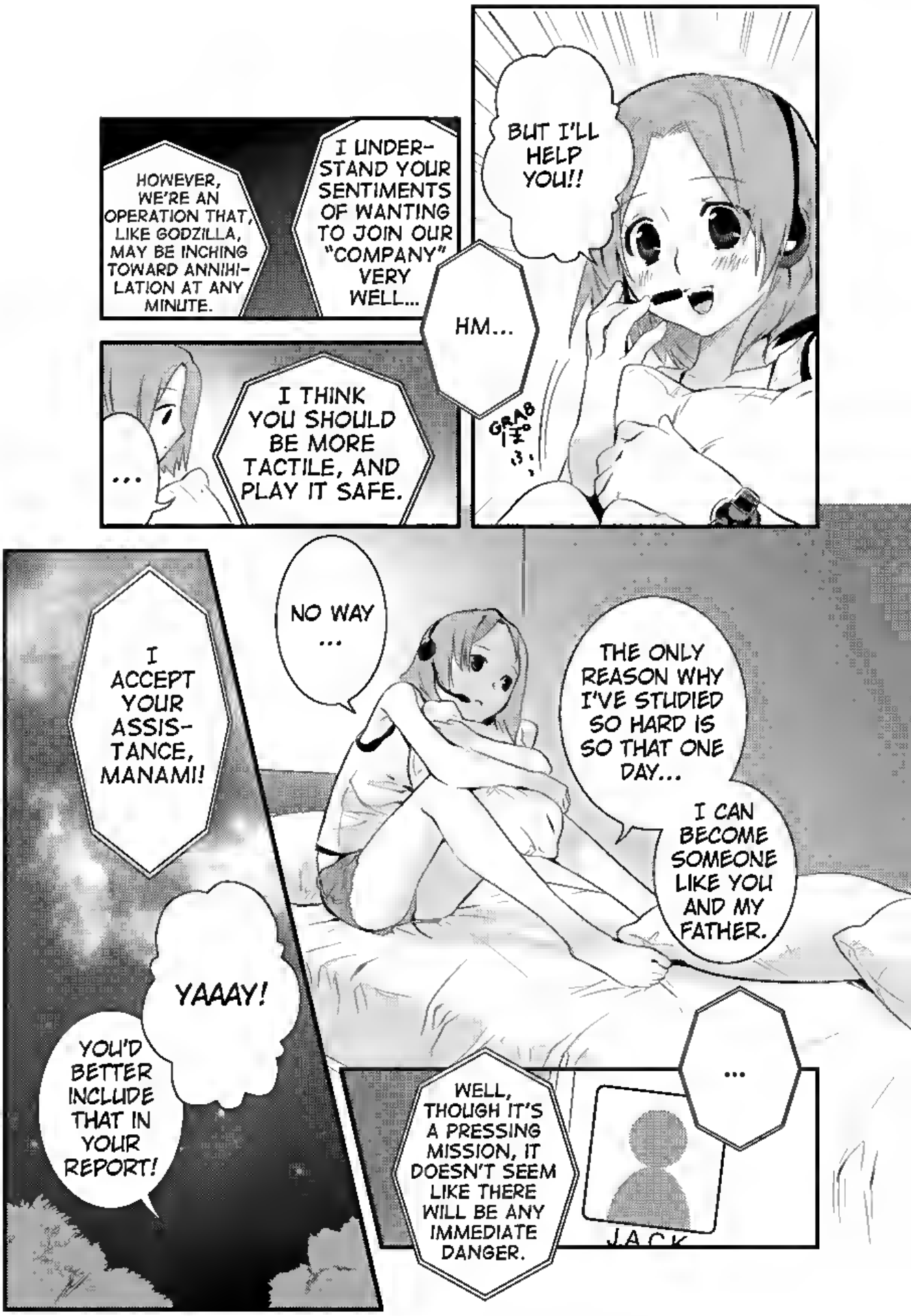
UH... UM...
IT'S ONLY NATURAL THAT THIS KIND OF SOCIAL GESTURE DEMANDS SOME FORM OF COMPENSATION FOR THE HELPER, RIGHT?
Y-YEAH, I GUESS.
YOU SEE, YOU TOOK ME IN, AND EVEN GAVE ME FOOD...
HUH?
SO, UM...
WITH REGARDS TO COMPENSATION...
SINCE OUR PLANETS HAVE NO ESTABLISHED FORMAL RELATIONS, I DON'T CARRY ANY MONETARY ITEMS THAT MAY BE OF WORTH TO YOU...
BUT THERE IS STILL MUCH TO DO FOR MY INVESTIGATION...
THUMP
YEAH...
SHY
SO, I THOUGHT MAYBE I CAN REPAY YOU WITH MY BODY...
I MEAN... OUR SPECIES' REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM IS VERY SIMILAR TO YOURS... SO MY HYPOTHESIS IS THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO ENGAGE IN...
H-HOLD ON!!
WHY?
EEEK!

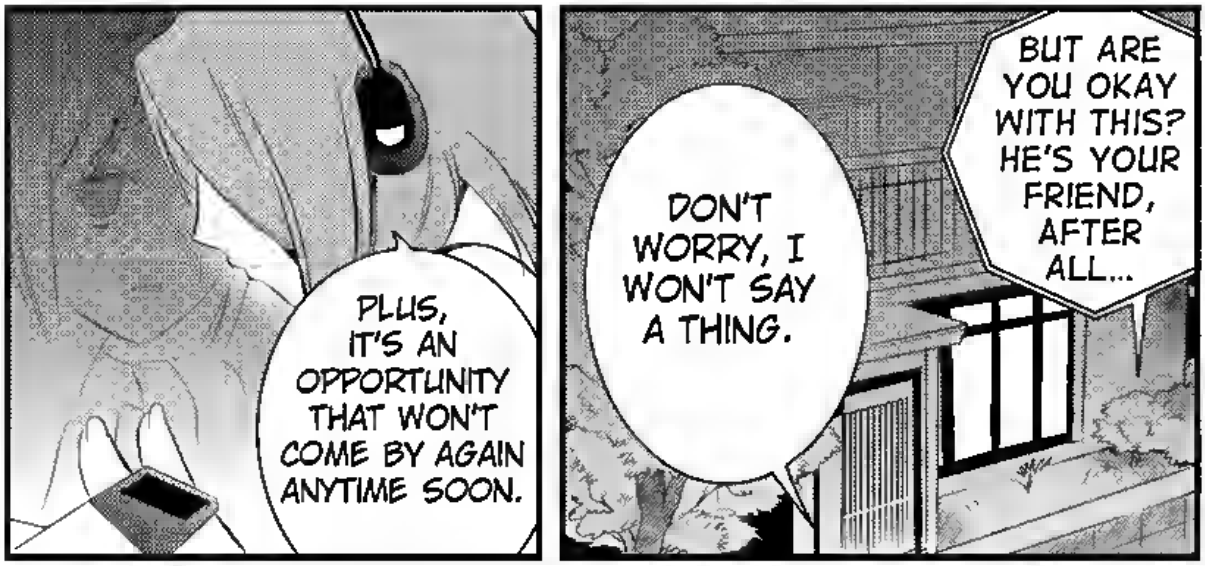
WHAT "SOURCES"?!
BUT... THE SOURCES I READ INDICATED...
B-B BODY!!!
MY PARENTS LET YOU STAY HERE BECAUSE THEY LIKE YOU!!
JUST ACCEPT THEIR KINDNESS, PLEASE!!
DUMBFOUNDED
I ALSO HEARD FROM MR. YUICHI AND THE GRANDMA...
THE BOOKS UNDERNEATH YOUR BED...
♪ IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE TUNE.
N-N-NO!!
T-THOSE ARE FAKE!! THEY'RE FICTION!
THE WORLD WOULD BE SO MESSED UP IF THOSE THINGS WERE REAL!!

OH, REALLY? THANK GOODNESS...
ALTHOUGH IT DID CROSS MY MIND THAT WE MIGHT BE COMPATIBLE, SINCE I'M ONLY 16 YEARS OF AGE...
I'VE NEVER HAD ANY EXPERIENCE WITH THE OPPOSITE SEX. I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO DO...
MAUSE DOG
Y-YEAH.
WELL, UH... G-GOOD THING, HUH?
HEH
FIDGET
AHAHAHA!
AHAHAHA!
SNAP

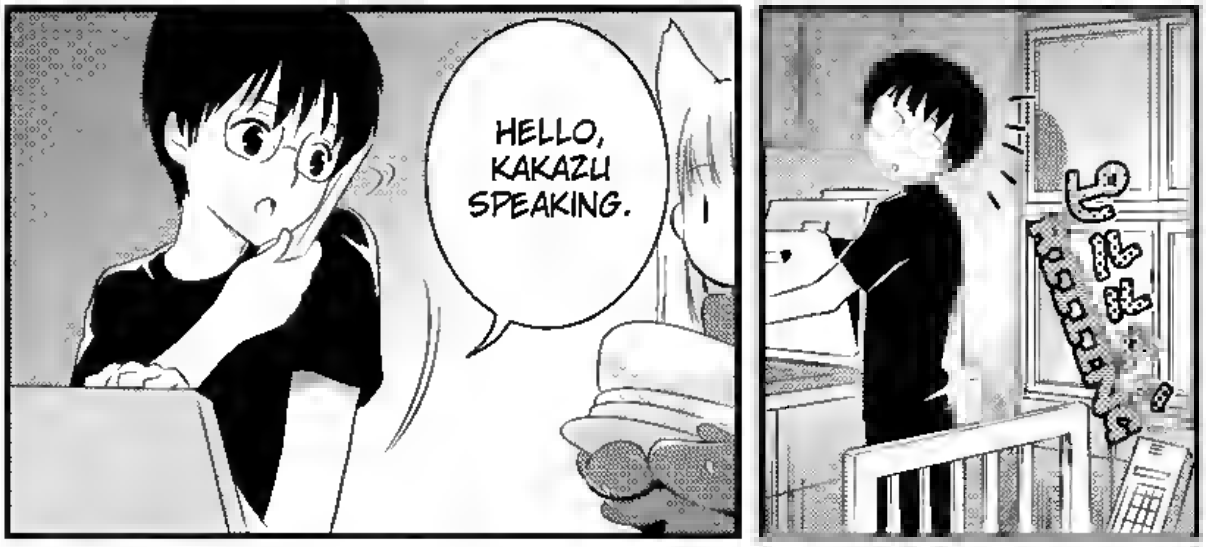
TWO LASER DETECTORS ARE SET UP TO SENSE THE TINY VIBRATION FROM THE WINDOW GLASS, GENERATING THEM INTO SOUNDS! NOW AVAILABLE WITH COMPLEMENTARY TRIPOD!


HOW'S YOUR DADDY, BY THE WAY?
HE'S STILL IN THE PHILIP-PINES.
THE PUBLIC'S STILL A LITTLE SHAKY BECAUSE OF THE ELEC-TIONS.
I SEE... I JUST FLEW FROM GERMANY STRAIGHT TO THE STATES, SO I HAD NO IDEA...
ANYWAY, SEEMS LIKE THEY'LL BE GOING OUT TOMORROW FOR SURE.
OH, WHAT ARE THE CHANCES?!
SHIFT


BUT I'LL HELP YOU!!
HM...
GRAB
I UNDERSTAND YOUR SENTIMENTS OF WANTING TO JOIN OUR "COMPANY" VERY WELL...
HOWEVER, WE'RE AN OPERATION THAT, LIKE GODZILLA, MAY BE INCHING TOWARD ANNIHILATION AT ANY MINUTE.
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE MORE TACTILE, AND PLAY IT SAFE.
...
NO WAY ...
THE ONLY REASON WHY I'VE STUDIED SO HARD IS SO THAT ONE DAY...
I CAN BECOME SOMEONE LIKE YOU AND MY FATHER.
...
WELL, THOUGH IT'S A PRESSING MISSION, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE WILL BE ANY IMMEDIATE DANGER.
JACK
I ACCEPT YOUR ASSISTANCE, MANAMI!
YAAAY!
YOU'D BETTER INCLUDE THAT IN YOUR REPORT!


PLUS, IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY THAT WON'T COME BY AGAIN ANYTIME SOON.
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T SAY A THING.
BUT ARE YOU OKAY WITH THIS? HE'S YOUR FRIEND, AFTER ALL...

TALK TO YOU TOMORROW.


HELLO, KAKAZU SPEAKING.

ITOKAZU-SENSEI?
SORRY TO CALL YOU OUT OF THE BLUE, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU...
I JUST THOUGHT I'D MAKE UP FOR BEING A LITTLE HARSH WITH MY WORDS YESTERDAY...
DON'T WORRY, IT'S NOT SPECIAL TREATMENT OR ANYTHING...
I MEAN, WOULD YOU LIKE A LIFT SINCE I'LL BE DRIVING TO SCHOOL TOMORROW AND IF YOUR DESTINATION'S ON THE WAY...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO SOME-WHERE TO-MORROW?
IN THAT CASE, THEY'RE THE OPPO-SITE DIREC-TION...
OH, IT'S NO PROBLEM. SORRY TO CALL YOU THIS LATE.
BEEP
YOU'RE GOING TO THE LIBRARY?
WILL YOUR "FRIEND" ACCOMPANY YOU?

TRANSLATING.

WHY MUST IT BE YOU...
RUSTLE
? ? . . .
WHY...?
FLIP
KAKAZU-KUN...?

I CAN STILL REMEMBER CLEARLY,
OH!
THAT DAY WHEN THE RAIN KEPT POURING FOR HOURS...
I KNEW VERY WELL THAT I WAS SUPPOSED TO IGNORE HIM.
RAISED AS A "WEAPON," I WAS SUPPOSED TO LIVE AS THOUGH OTHERS DID NOT MATTER.
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR THIS, TOO?
LIMITED EDITION
IN THAT CASE, I'LL LET YOU TAKE IT.
BUT REMEMBER TO TELL ME HOW IT IS NEXT TIME WE SEE EACH OTHER!

HE'S THE FIRST "FRIEND" I EVER MADE...
AND I'M ABOUT TO HURT HIM, DEEPLY.
FROM THAT DAY ON, WE OCCASIONALLY TALKED...
BEFORE I REALIZED IT, I LOOKED FORWARD TO GOING TO SCHOOL...
OUR TARGET WILL BE AT THE PREFECTURAL LIBRARY TOMORROW.
THE INFORMATION'S OUT.
HELLO...
BEEP
BEEP
IF THEY DON'T COMPLY, SEIZE THEM BY FORCE.
WARN THEM AT FIRST APPROACH.

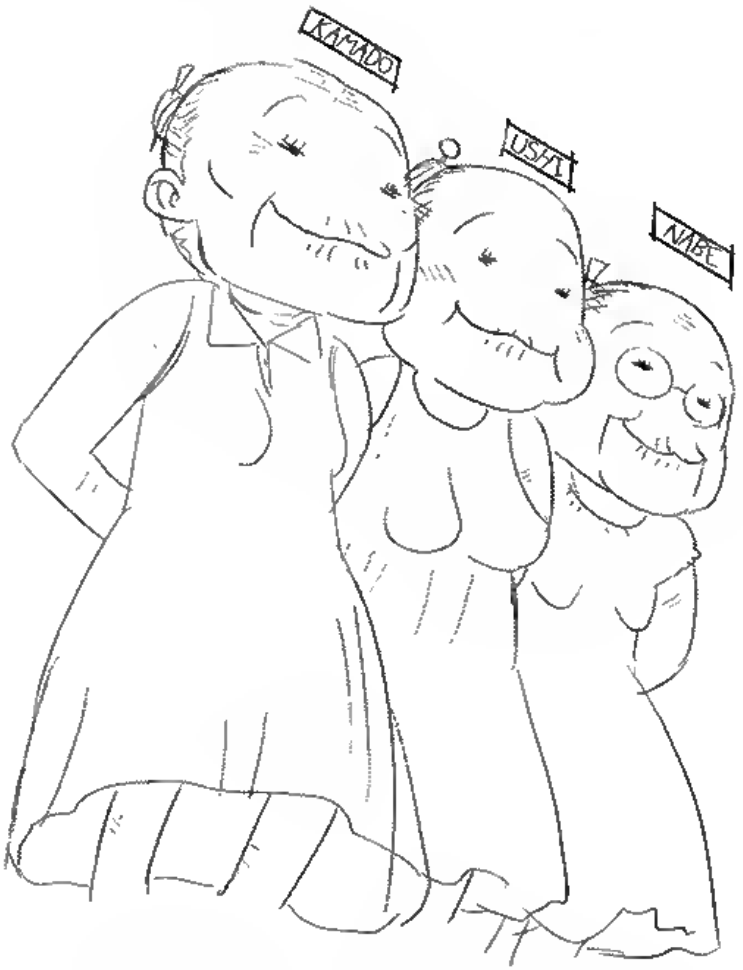
UNDER-
STOOD.
TO-
MORROW
IT IS...
HUH?

AH...
SORRY, ERIS. I DIDN'T REALIZE I FELL ASLEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR CONVERSATION...
I MUST HAVE EXHAUSTED HER OUT WITH ALL MY QUESTIONS. BUT THANKS TO THAT,
AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT UNCLE YUICHI AND GRANDMA USHI TAUGHT HER SOME WEIRD THINGS...
COVER
WE HAD A PRETTY GREAT CONVERSATION.

RUB
スリ
スリ
RUB
HM... MEOW.
SEEMS LIKE TOMORROW'S GONNA BE...
A BIG DAY.
ERIS.
HNNG... KIO, YOU PERV...
UGH...
UGH!!

YUICHI MIYAGI

KIO'S UNCLE WHO ALWAYS WEARS A RED HAWAIIAN SHIRT AND WHITE BERMUDA SHORTS. HIS REAL IDENTITY AND OCCUPATION REMAINS A MYSTERY TO ALL.
HOWEVER, YUICHI IS A NICE GUY WHO LOOKS AFTER THOSE AROUND HIM.



THE THREE ELDERS OF THE KAKAZU FAMILY; ALL OF THEM ARE OVER 100 YEARS OLD. THEY MANAGE AN OKINAWAN SOBA NOODLE HOUSE, AND ALSO ACT AS PRIESTESSES AND SHAMANS WHO'RE REFERRED TO AS "YUTA" IN THE REGION. SOME PEOPLE SEEM TO BE EXTREMELY INTIMIDATED BY THEIR PRESENCE, BUT RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE KAKAZU ELDERS WERE BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG. . OR SO IT SEEMS.

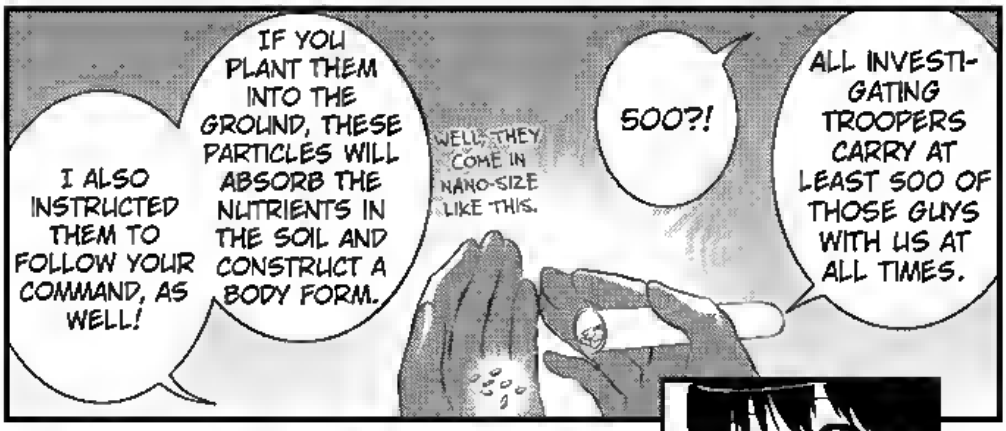
HAVE YOU ALL FORGOTTEN THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT WEALTH AND POWER TO THIS PLANET?!
HURRY UP!
N-NO, MA'AM.
TAP TAP TAP
YOU GUYS HAVEN'T CAUGHT THEM YET?!
THE PRIMAL DOGS OF THIS PLANET KNOW WHEN TO REPAY THEIR MOST TRIVIAL OF DEBTS... BUT YOU SEE, THE CATS ARE DIFFERENT FROM US.
THEY'RE NEAR-SIGHTED CREATURES WHO KNOW NOTHING ABOUT TACTICS OR FORE-THOUGHT. THEY ACT SOLELY UPON INSTINCT.
SOON ENOUGH, THE NEWS WILL SPREAD ACROSS THE WORLD.
THE TIME OF CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION HAS ARRIVED.
Y-YOU'RE RIGHT, MADAME.

005 THE CAT WHO APPEARED OUT OF THE SOIL

!!
CHIRP CHIRP
ERIS.
ERIS! ERIS...!!
THUD
OKAY, HERE WE GO...
BEEP BEEP BEEP
EXCAVATE
くりももももっ

♪BA-DUM BA-DUM BA-DUMMM ぱぱんぱかぱぱーん♪
ぱん POOF
ぱん POOF
POOF ぱん
POOF ぱん
とてとてたDASH
ACTION CONFIRMATION: DANCE!!
GOOD GOOD
EVERYBODY! GATHER AROUND...!!

TWIIIRL, TWIRL, TWIRL, SKIP SKIP
たらららったったらったたーー
AND, STOP.
BLANK
"SING."
"IN-TIMI-DATE."
NOW "RE-PENT!"
I THOUGHT SINCE THE LIBRARY PROVIDES MOSTLY PAPER INFORMATION, IT'D BE HARD TO COMPLETE THE TASK ALONE.
I NEED ALL THE HELP THAT I CAN GET.
THEY'RE DATA-COLLECTING ROBOTS CALLED "ASSIST-A-ROIDS."
AND WHERE DID THAT SIGN COME FROM?
WHAT ARE THEY?
That's impossible
GREAT! THEIR JUDGMENT ABILITY IS FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.


I ALSO INSTRUCTED THEM TO FOLLOW YOUR COMMAND, AS WELL!
IF YOU PLANT THEM INTO THE GROUND, THESE PARTICLES WILL ABSORB THE NUTRIENTS IN THE SOIL AND CONSTRUCT A BODY FORM.
WELL, THEY COME IN NANO-SIZE LIKE THIS.
500?!
ALL INVESTI-GATING TROOPERS CARRY AT LEAST 500 OF THOSE GUYS WITH US AT ALL TIMES.

THEY'RE COMING WITH US...?
すぃらATTEEENTION!

UH... I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE POINT...
SO THEY WON'T BE NEEDING THE TAXI!!
DON'T WORRY. THEY'VE A BUILT-IN EASY TRANSPORT SYSTEM.
STROKE くりくり

OKINAWAN PREFEC TURAL LIBRARY

BOOK RETURN.
TODDLE TODDLE TOOOODLE
とてとてとー…
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THOSE THINGS?
THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE DOLLS OR PETS... AND IT SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE RESEARCHING SOMETHING.
COULD THEY BE A NEW TYPE OF COMPUTER GADGET...?
HEY! HEY, LITTLE ONES! YOU CAN'T RUN IN THE LIBRARY.
SAY... HOW DO YOU TELL THEM APART SINCE THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME?
RIGHT! む
THAT'S ぽ
OH YEAH...

MOM, DAD, THERE'S AN ALIEN WHO'S NUMBERING ROBOTS WITH A SHARPIE, RIGHT IN FRONT OF MY EYES...
HEE
HEE
SCRAMBLE
キュルーー...
OKAAAY! IF YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A NUMBER, THEN PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR WORK. THANK YOU!♪
5
IT SEEMS LIKE SPACE TRAVELING IS VERY LIMITED TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PEOPLE ON YOUR PLANET.
IF OUR COUNTRIES EVER ESTABLISH AN ALLIANCE WITH EACH OTHER,
WOULD YOU GUYS SHARE YOUR TECHNO-LOGICAL KNOW-LEDGE WITH US?
OF COURSE! WE'LL DEFINITELY REPAY YOUR PEOPLE WITH SOMETHING OF EQUAL VALUE.
WOW, THAT'S AWESOME. MAYBE I'LL BE ABLE TO STUDY ABROAD, IN SPACE, ONE DAY!
COOL!
BUT I DON'T THINK OUR PLANET HAS ADVANCED TO THAT POINT YET...
EVEN IF WE HAVE THE KNOWLEDGE, WE STILL WON'T BE ABLE TO USE IT, YKNOW?
DON'T WORRY. IF THAT WAS THE CASE, WE WOULDN'T HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT YOU GUYS IN THE FIRST PLACE!

ALTHOUGH YOU EARTHENS OFTEN GO TO WAR,
AND EVEN DEVELOPED NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THE HUMAN RACE STILL THRIVES ON. IT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE.
AS FOR THE CATIANS, WE'VE FACED THE GREAT DANGER OF EXTINCTION BEFORE.
OH... SOMEHOW I HAD ASSUMED THAT EXTRATERRESTRIAL BEINGS EVOLVED WITHOUT ANY SORT OF TROUBLES LIKE THAT.
OF COURSE NOT. THERE ARE STILL TIMES OF MISJUDGMENTS AND UNFRUITFUL EFFORTS.
EVEN THOUGH WE WERE AT WAR FOR ABOUT 5,000 YEARS,
THERE HAS BEEN A LASTING PEACE FOR OVER 70,000 YEARS SINCE...
HOWEVER, OUR SPECIES ARE AT A DEAD-END IN TERMS OF EVOLUTION.
OUR BODY SYSTEM HAS REMAINED THE SAME FOR ABOUT 200,000 YEARS.
THAT IS WHY WE DECIDED TO EMBARK ON A JOURNEY INTO THE GALAXY.

ABOUT TWO YEARS AGO, WE SENT A SIGNAL TO YOUR PLANET, BUT NEVER GOT A RESPONSE...
SO THAT'S WHEN YOU GUYS DECIDED TO COME HERE AND INVESTIGATE.
THAT'S RIGHT. WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GOOD TACTIC TO GET TO KNOW WHAT THIS PLANET IS LIKE FIRST...
BUT ACTUALLY, THE MOST IMPORTANT TASK IS TO ESTABLISH FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE OF EARTH!
I TOLD YOU, I'VE COME HERE TO PLAY!!

PHEW, WE'RE DONE!!
THAT DIDN'T TAKE AS LONG AS I THOUGHT IT WOULD.
YUP, THESE KIDS HAVE WORKED VERY HARD.
TO HELP ... US ...
YOU'RE REALLY EASY TO UNDER-STAND...
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU GUYS ARE DOING FINE...
CAN WE PLEASE STAY IN THE LIBRARY FOR A BIT LONGER?
NO, NO. IT'S SUMMER VACATION AND THE ASSIST-A-ROIDS ATTRACTED TOO MANY LITTLE KIDS IN THERE.

OH, HONEY.
SWEETIE.
デレ LOVEY DOVEY
デレ LOVEY DOVEY
デレ LOVEY DOVEY
デレ LOVEY DOVEY
CHIP
TWEET
SO, ARE THOSE PEOPLE GONNA GO HOME AND MATE WITH EACH OTHER?
FALL
W-W-WHAT?!
FROM MR. YUICHI AND THE GRANDMA
W-WELL, THAT'S WHAT I HEARD...
NO, NO, NO, NO! IT'S NOT ALWAYS THAT SIMPLE!!
WHAT THE HECK DID THEY TEACH HER...
SORRY! I JUST ASSUMED THAT THE CUSTOMS HERE ARE LIKE THAT OF OUR PLANET...
IN FACT, THERE AREN'T A LOT OF MALES IN OUR SPECIES.
OH? SO, THE CATIANS PRACTICE POLYGAMY?
NO, BUT IT HAS BECOME A CIVIL DUTY FOR A MAN TO PROVIDE THEIR GENES FOR REPRODUCTION.
AND FOR THE FEMALE POPULATION WHO WANT CHILDREN, THEY MUST HAVE THEIR EGGS REGISTERED.

SO FOR US, IT'S NORMAL FOR A MAN AND A WOMAN OF THE SAME AGE TO SLEEP IN THE SAME ROOM.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANY SEXUAL INTENTIONS WHEN I SLEPT IN YOUR BED...
THAT FIRST NIGHT...
WELL, THAT EXPLAINS A LOT.
I MUST APOLOGIZE, EVEN THOUGH IT'S IN THE PAST.
B-BUT THEY SURE DO LOOK HAPPY WITH EACH OTHER...
I'M A LITTLE ENVIOUS.
OH, YEAH! THAT MIGHT WORK!!
H-HUH?!
BE RIGHT BACK! WAIT FOR ME HERE.
K-KIO...
RUN
DID HE MEAN THAT WE MIGHT WORK TOGETHER...
AS A COUPLE...?
IF IT'S KIO, I WOULDN'T M--
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP

HERE YOU GO!!
THIS MIGHT COOL YOU OFF A BIT.
IS THIS WHAT THEY CALL A "DAIRY PRODUCT?"
YUP, IT'S GOT MILK IN IT.
AH, I SEE. FROM A COW'S BREAST ...
SO SOFT, SO SWEET, AND SO ICY. I LOVE IT!
LICK LICK LICK LICK

SEEMS LIKE SHE'S REALLY ENJOYING THE ICE CREAM...
THE EARTH SURE HAS LOTS OF DELICIOUS FOOD!
AND IS FILLED WITH KIND PEOPLE WHO'VE SHOWN ME WARMTH...
I'M SO GLAD I CAME HERE...
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP

W-WE ARE THE SECRET ORGANIZATION "BEAUTIFUL CONTACT!"
ガタ SHAKE
ガタ SHAKE
ガタ SHAKE
ヒィィ
AHHH
HM? THAT VOICE SOUNDS FAMILIAR...
AH...
THEY'RE OVER THERE!!
W-WRONG PEOPLE!! THOSE TWO DON'T EVEN LOOK LIKE ALIENS!!
NO WAY, I'M A TEACHER ...

SWISH
F-F-FOR THE G-GOOD OF THE HUMAN RACE, W-WE REFUSE TO RECOGNIZE OR INTERACT WITH YOUR KIND!
SWISH
HEY YOU! THE ALIEN WITH RED HAIR!
Y-YES?
Y-Y-YOU BETTER G-G-GET THE HELL OFF THIS PLANET!!
I-I'M SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF ALL MANKIND!!
COULD YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW?
I MUST WRITE THAT IN MY REPORT
WELL, WHAT WOULD YOUR REASON BE, AND WHAT GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION ARE YOU REPRESENTING...?
ペロペロ!!
SO YOU WERE SAYING... WHAT GROUP SPECIFICALLY?
SORRY ABOUT THAT.
ALL RIGHT.
OH!
SHAKE
SILENCE...

PHEW
BUT FIRST, COULD I KNOW A BIT MORE ABOUT THIS ORGANIZATION THAT YOU'RE SPEAKING OF?
I'M HERE TO INVESTIGATE THIS PLANET SO IT WOULD BE GREAT IF YOU CAN GIVE ME SOME VALUABLE INPUT.
HMPH.
PLEASE FINISH EATING FIRST...
CHEW
CHEW
SO UM, HRMEM EMM HMRM HRM HMM ...
W-WE CAN'T TELL YOU!!
WHY?
DUN-DUN!
DUN-DUN-DUN!
DUU
BECAUSE WE'RE A SECRET SOCIETY!!
UN!
CLENCH
AH, I SEE. OKAY!
I DIDN'T KNOW!

IS THIS SOME SORT OF COSPLAY...?! WHO ARE YOU TO ENJOY THAT DARN ICE CREAM ANYWAY?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME!
CAT EARS AND A TAIL, WITH A SKIN-TIGHT BODY-SUIT?!
DAMN IT!
AND WHAT ARE YOU WEARING ...?!
W-WHAT KIND OF STUPID REACTION WAS THAT?!
WHOA
DAMN IT!おい DAMN IT!おーい DAMN IT!おいし
WHY, OF ALL THE POSSIBILITIES, DO YOU HAVE TO BE OUR FIRST CONTACT...?!!
WHATEVER IT TAKES, COMPUTER GRAPHICS OR CHARACTER SUITS, THEY'RE ALL BETTER THAN THIS!!
WHY?! WHY MUST YOU BE AN ANIME-CHARACTER-LOOKING DIM-WIT?! I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIGHLY INTELLIGENT ALIENS LIKE OVERLORD* OR SOME OTHER MERCILESS INVADER!
C'MON, I WAS EXPECTING HIGHLY EVOLVED SPIRITUAL FORMS, SILICON ORGANISMS WITH A LIFE ACCELERATING MECHANISM, CYBORG INTELLIGENCE, NUCLEAR EXOSKELETAL ORGANISMS, OR SOME ALIEN IN A SPONGY FORM!!
SOB...
PAT
SOB...
AGREED
...SOMEHOW, IT'S LIKE WE'RE DEALING WITH A BUNCH OF IRRATIONAL LITTLE KIDS...

NOTE: *THE AUTHOR IS MAKING A REFERENCE TO ARTHUR C. CLARKE'S SCI-FI NOVEL CHILDHOOD'S END.

STOMP
SCREECH
STOMP
STOMP
HEY DON'T PUSH
WHOA THERE
I'M ENDOU FROM THE SPECIAL DIVISION OF THE IMMIGRATION BUREAU.
STOMP
I WAS INFORMED THAT YOU HAVE NOT UNDERGONE THE LEGAL TRANSACTIONS TO ENTER THE COUNTRY.
UNFORTUNATELY, I WILL HAVE TO DEPORT YOU,
AND HAND YOU OVER TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.
JAPANESE IMMIGRATION BUREAU:
SPECIAL DIVISION
THEREFORE, AS AN ILLEGAL ALIEN, WE MUST ARREST YOU UNDER THE LAW.
AMERICA ?

I'M FOLLOWING ORDERS.
WELL THEN, WHY DO YOU INSIST—
THAT I UNDER-STAND. SHE'S NOT A RESIDENT OF THIS PLANET.
UM... IT'S OBVIOUS THAT SHE'S NOT JAPANESE, BUT I'M PRETTY SURE SHE'S NOT AMERICAN EITHER...
H-HOLD UP...!
YOU KNOW, SHE'S AN OFFICIAL REPRE-SENTATIVE OF HER PLANET,
DOESN'T SHE DESERVE BETTER TREATMENT THAN THIS?
A PEACEFUL NEGOTIATION MAY VERY WELL AFFECT THE DESTINY OF EARTH!!
AS I SAID, IT'S REGULATION.
AND I'M JUST ABIDING BY THE RULES SET OUT BY MY SUPERIORS.

ERIS...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?
ARE YOU GOING TO LISTEN TO HIM?
...NO.
MY MISSION HERE ISN'T OVER YET.
BESIDES, I THINK HE IS BEING UNREA-SONABLE.
WELL THEN,
I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE YOU BY FORCE THEN.

UNDER-
STOOD.
WOOSH
CALLING
MOMIJI...
YOU'VE
BEEN
GIVEN THE
GREEN
LIGHT
BEEP
YOU'VE
THREE
MINUTES
TO
COMPLETE
YOUR TASK
BEEP
CLUNK
MOMIJI
DISENGAGING.

SWOOSH
?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
FSSSSH!
W-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
S-SMOKE SCREEN?!

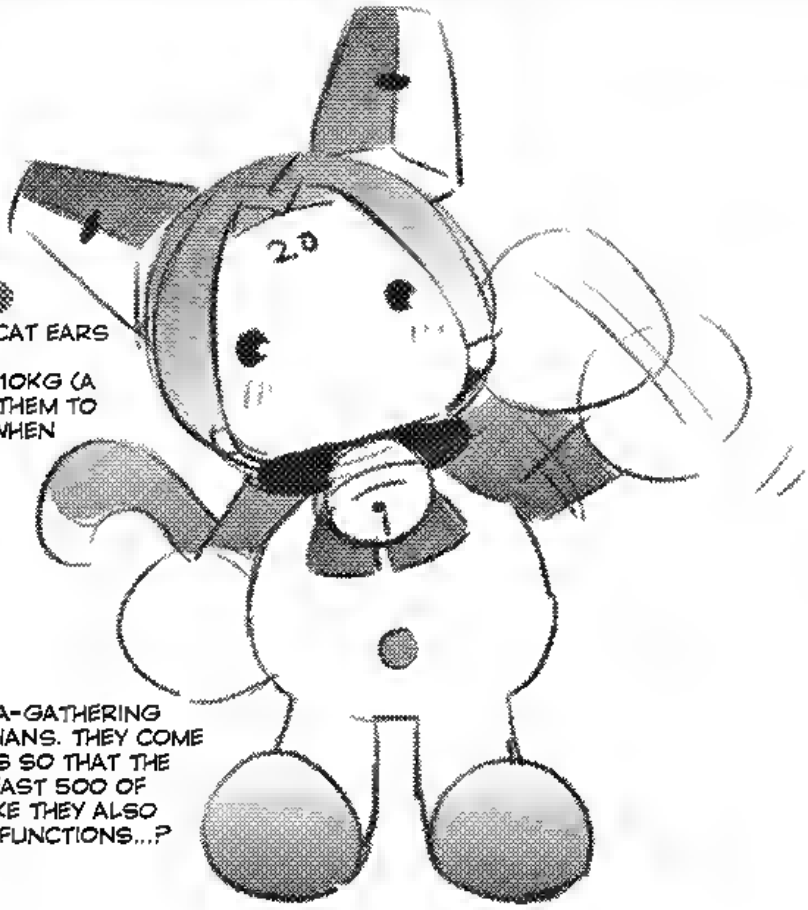
TACKLE
LOOK OUT, ERIS!!
!!

SMASH
W-WHAT IS THAT?!

IS SHE... HUMAN?!

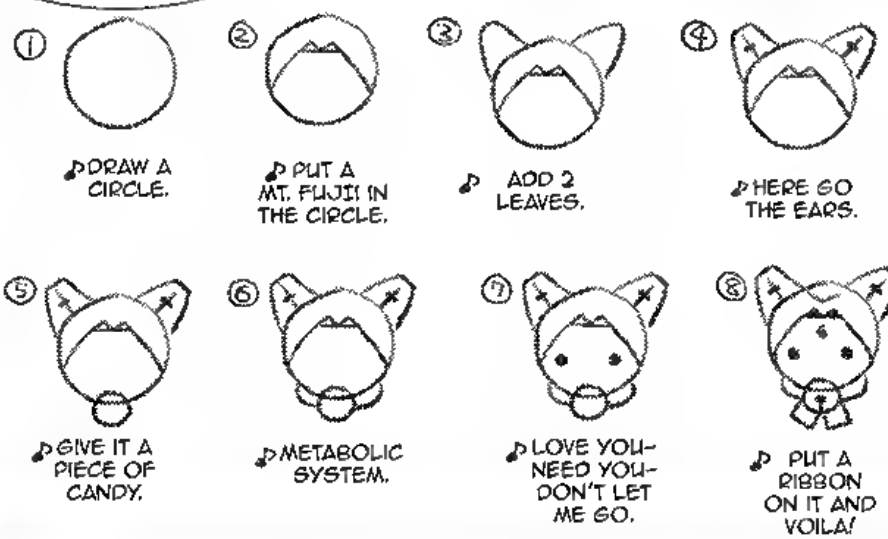
ASSIST-A-ROID

AVERAGE HEIGHT: 50CM (CAT EARS INCLUDED)
AVERAGE WEIGHT: 300G-10KG (A BUILT-IN PRESET ALLOWS THEM TO DECREASE THEIR WEIGHT WHEN DESCENDING)



ASSIST-A-ROIDS ARE DATA-GATHERING ROBOTS USED BY THE CATIANS. THEY COME IN GRAIN-SIZED PARTICLES SO THAT THE TROOPS CAN CARRY AT LEAST 500 OF THEM, AT ONCE. SEEMS LIKE THEY ALSO HAVE A LOT OF DIFFERENT FUNCTIONS...?

LET'S DRAW ASSIST-A-ROIDS!



006 B'AD-LUCK MOMIJI
MOMIJI DISEN-GAGING.
THERE ARE TOO MANY PEOPLE HERE, AND THE POLICE STATION IS NEARBY.
THE LONGER IT TAKES, THE MORE DISADVAN-TAGES I HAVE.
OBJECT TELE-PORTA-TION!
POOF
SWOOP
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS...
IN ONE STRIKE

!!
TACKLE
K-
KAKAZU-
KUN?!
SHIT!

SMASH!
DAMN IT!
NO...
I CAN'T LET MYSELF DOWN.
THE NEXT MOVE...
WILL END THIS

WHOA!
SSSHIN
DODGE
AH!!
SHE AVOIDED ...?!
IT'S THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE'S EVER SUCCESSFULLY ...
DODGED ...
THUD

IF I'M GOING TO DEFEND WITH MY ARM, I'LL SWING MY ARM TO BLOCK!
BUT NOT FOR LONG, LIKE THIS!
WHOA!!
HUH?!
BONK
THUD
WHAT WAS THAT...?
IT FELT LIKE I STRUCK A BOULDER...

RUSH!
HUH?!
AH!
SQUEEZE
YEESSS!
I'LL JUST UTILIZE HER WEIGHT...
TO KNOCK HER OUT!!

FWIP
HUH?
TUMBLE
WHOA!
THUD
SHE'S SO LIGHT....!

I GUESS
EVOLVED
CATS"

AND WE ARE,
AFTER ALL,
JUST
OF MONKEYS...
GULP!

IF THAT'S THE CASE!!
FWOOSH
I'LL DEFEAT YOU WITH BRUTE FORCE!!

Stop it!
Cut it out!
No Violence!
まもれ
WOBBLE
?!
ドラ
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
ドラ
W-WHOA!!
What WHAT THE HECK?!
Not calm!
DAAA
UGH!
READY?

TACKLE!
STOP THAT!!
KA—
KAKAZU-KUN!!
ERIS ISN'T A CRIMINAL!!

GRIIIP
DAMN IT!!
AH!
FALL
WHOA
WHAT'S THIS?! IT'S HARD...
KIO, IT'S OKAY!! LET'S JUST RUN!!
NO!!
WHY WON'T YOU GUYS LEAVE ERIS ALONE?!
STOP TRYING TO HURT HER!!
SWOOSH

RIKE!
IT'S AS IF ALL MY ARMOR HAS WORN OFF...
...
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...

I JUST CAN'T...
WHAT'S WRONG, MOMIJI?!
ARE YOU ABAN-DONING THIS MISSION?!
AND I'M STANDING HERE AIMLESSLY,
WEAK AND VULNERABLE...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

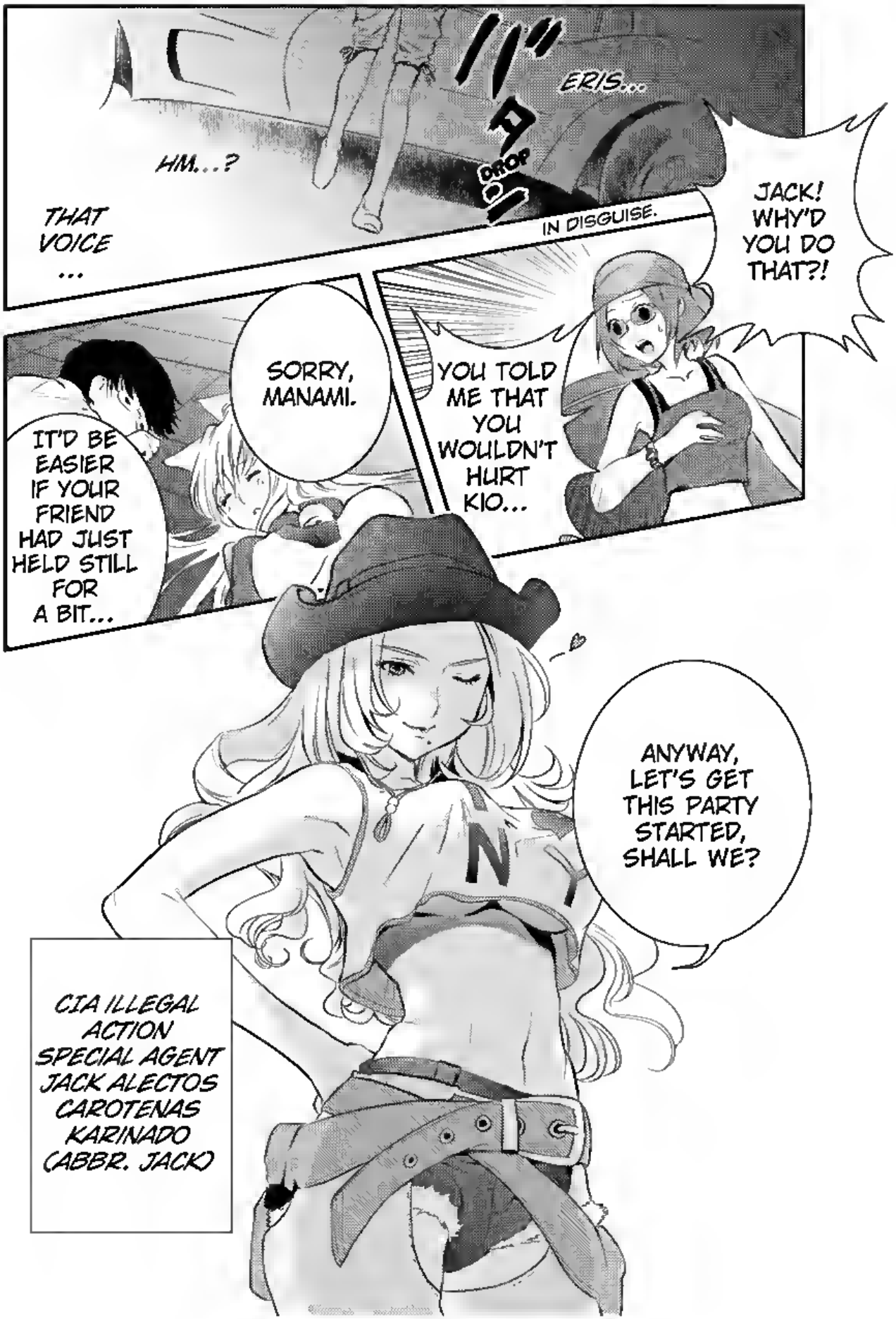
I'M RETURN-ING NOW.
PEEP
MY BODY'S NOT AT IT'S BEST CONDI-TION. SO I MUST ABORT THE MISSION.

BECAUSE NO COMPENSATION IS LARGE ENOUGH FOR ME TO HURT MY DEAR FRIEND...

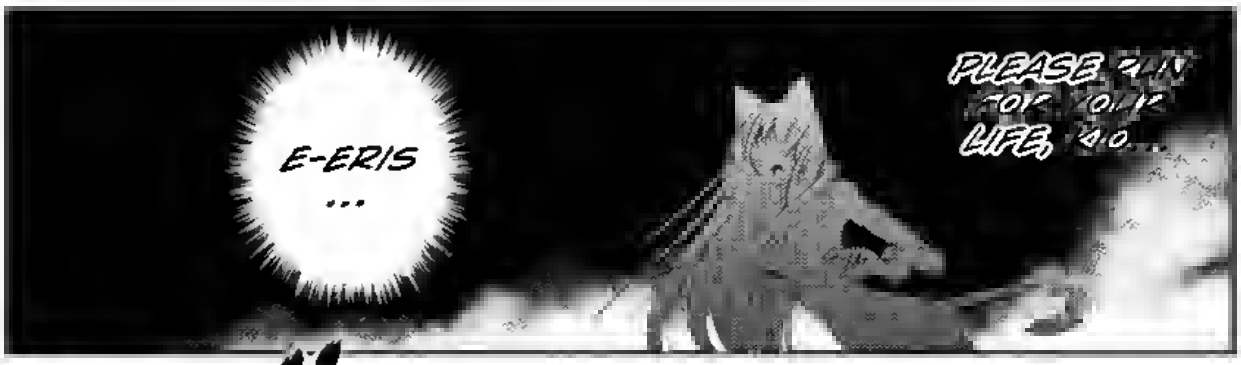
H-HEY! DON'T IGNORE US, ALIEN!!
COUGH
DON'T FORGET TO FLIP THE SAFETY OFF!!
CLICK
WHAT?! WHERE? WHICH ONE?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
KEE-OO
SHIT! IT'S THE COPS!
PLUNK!
MAGAZINE.
LET'S RUN!!
KEE-OO
HOO

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE, ERIS!
D-DOES THAT MEAN WE HAVE TO RUN?
IT'S SO HOT...
BETTER THAN US GETTING CAUGHT!
BEEP
ぴっ
SSSH!!!
BEEP
ぴっ
ANYWAY, BEFORE WE GET TO THE TAXI...
CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THE ASSIST-A-ROIDS?
BEEP
ぴっ
OKAY EVERYBODY! NOW TRANSPORT YOURSELF BACK TO THE STATION, PLEASE!
CLICKCLICK
NOW WE'RE GOOD...

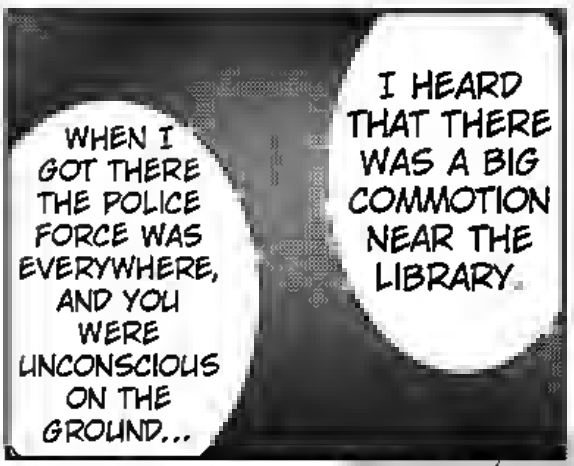
CREEEEEP
TSS!
WHAT...
K-KIO ...?!
TSS!
HUH?!
AH...

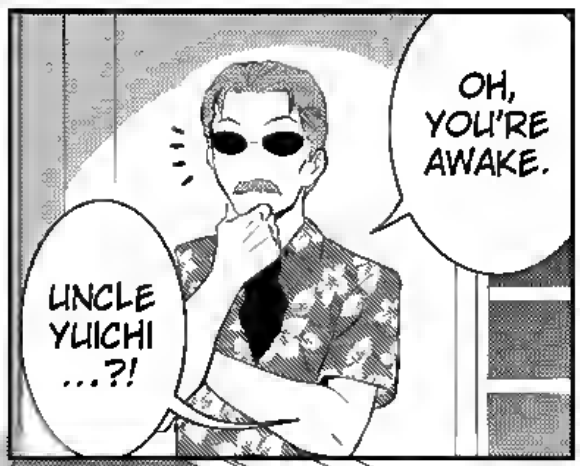

ERIS...
HM...?
DROP
THAT VOICE ...
IN DISGUISE.
JACK! WHY'D YOU DO THAT?!
YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU WOULDN'T HURT KIO...
SORRY, MANAMI.
IT'D BE EASIER IF YOUR FRIEND HAD JUST HELD STILL FOR A BIT...
ANYWAY, LET'S GET THIS PARTY STARTED, SHALL WE?
CIA ILLEGAL ACTION SPECIAL AGENT JACK ALECTOS CAROTENAS KARINADO (ABBR. JACK)

VRROOOM...


E-ERIS
...
PLEASE

ERIS!!
JOLT


I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A BIG COMMOTION NEAR THE LIBRARY.
WHEN I GOT THERE THE POLICE FORCE WAS EVERYWHERE, AND YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS ON THE GROUND...


OH, YOU'RE AWAKE.
UNCLE YUICHI ...?!

W-WHERE'S ERIS...?!
NO IDEA.
WHEN I FOUND YOU, YOU WERE ALONE.

I MUST GO, AND BRING HER BACK.
I-IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK...
I SEE THAT YOU'RE SURPRISINGLY AGGRESSIVE THIS TIME, MY DEAR NEPHEW.
OH...?
I'M NOT TOO SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT...
BUT I'M REALLY ANGRY...
I MEAN, THOSE PEOPLE REALLY WERE OUT OF LINE...

ALL THEY DID WAS PUSH THEIR OPINIONS, AND WHAT THEY THINK IS RIGHT, ONTO US...
AND THEY NEVER EVEN TRIED TO LISTEN TO WHAT ERIS HAD TO SAY.
ALL SHE WANTED WAS...

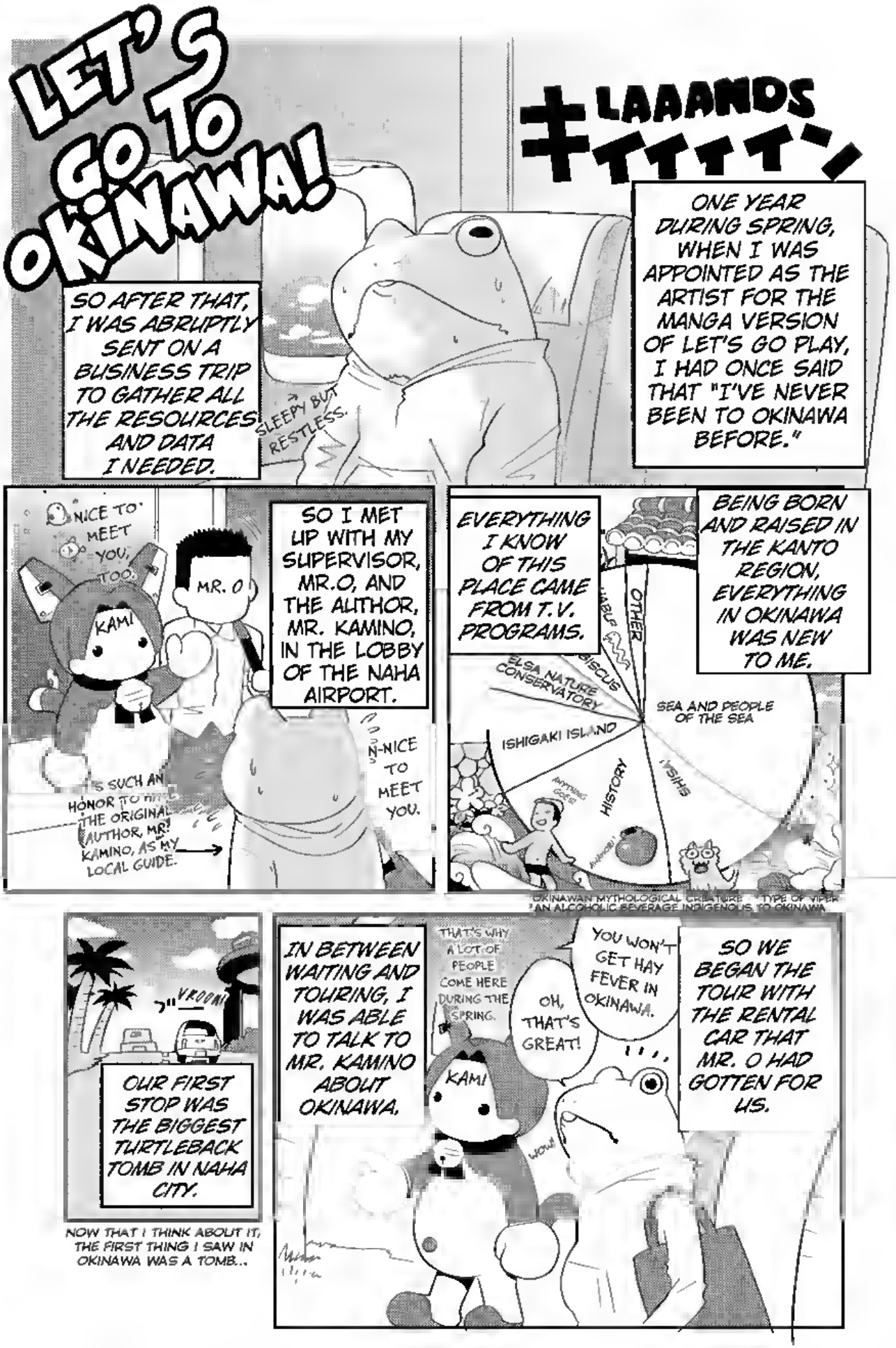
WELCOME BACK, KIO!
DELICIOUS!!
THANKS FOR LETTING ME JOIN IN THE FUN...

THERE ARE SO MANY KIND PEOPLE HERE, WHO'VE SHOWED ME WARMTH...
I'M SO GLAD THAT I CAME HERE...
I... MUST BRING HER BACK.
I WANT HER TO KNOW THAT THERE IS AT LEAST ONE PERSON...
WHO'S WILLING TO STAND BY HER SIDE.
SLIDE
CREEAK
YOU GUYS...

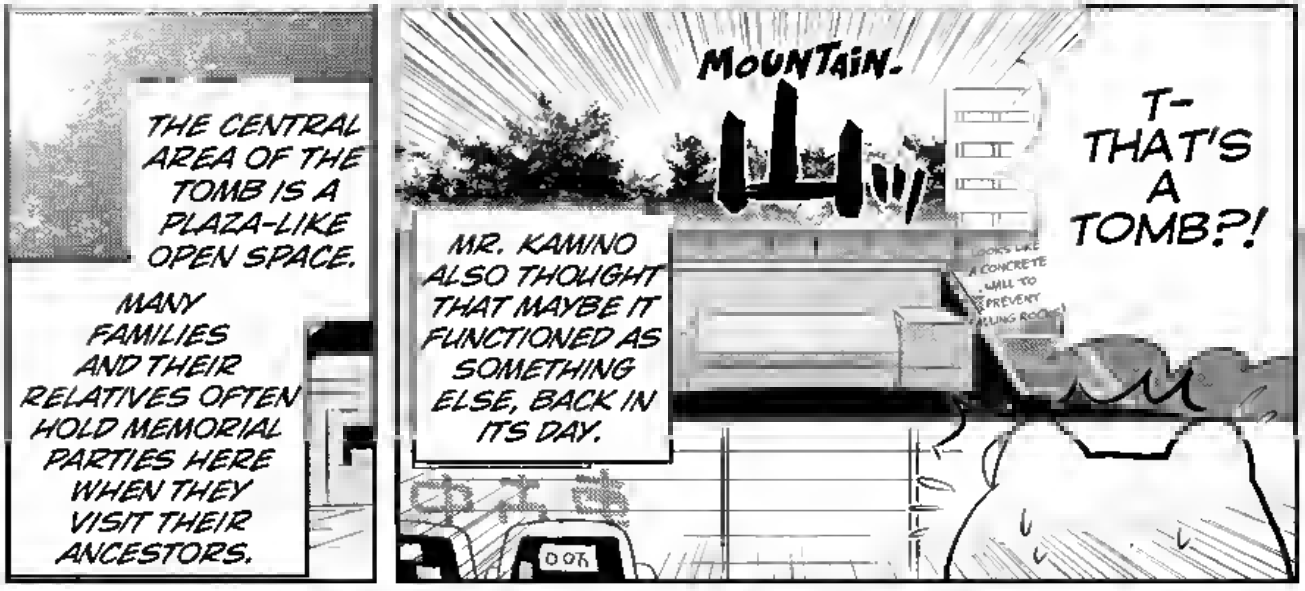
おちゃ おちゃ
RUB
H-HOLD... AH, STOP! HOLD UP!!
THAT TICKLES
WHOA!!
SNUGGLE
SEEMS LIKE THEY'RE REALLY HAPPY.
C-COULD THEY BE ERIS AND YOUR...
OF COURSE NOT!! THEY'RE ERIS' ROBOTS!
WHAT ABOUT GRANDMA?
SO THE GRANDMA WAS RIGHT.
ALRIGHT, I SEE.

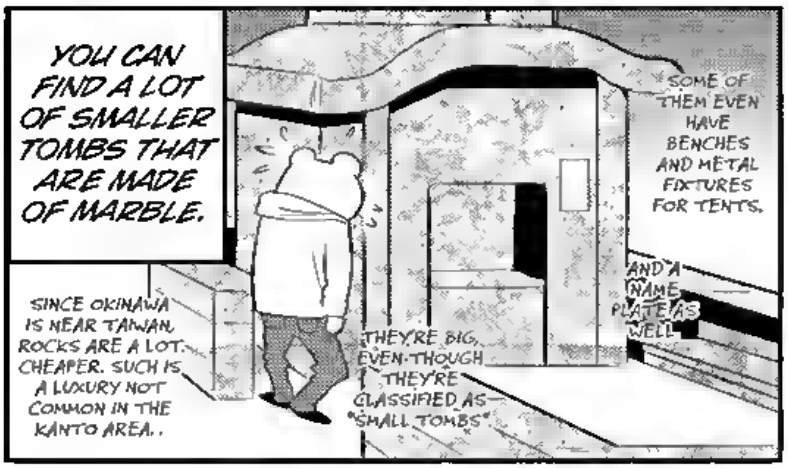
WELL, GRANDMA USHI ACTUALLY CALLED ME YESTERDAY.
SOMETHING BAD MIGHT HAPPEN TO YOUNG KIO TOMORROW, SO PLEASE GO LOOK AFTER HIM.
HEHE
I'M SURE YOU'LL COME IN HANDY!
GRANDMA WORKS AS A YUTA (PRIESTESS/ MEDIUM)
SO YOU'LL HELP ME, UNCLE YUICHI?
OF COURSE! WHO CAN RESIST AN EXCITING EPISODE OF MY DEAR NEPHEW SAVING A CUTE GIRL WHO'S KIDNAPPED?
LET'S DO THIS!
10 PUNCH
YOU DON'T THINK I'D JUST STAND THERE AND WATCH, DO YOU?

YES...
IF NOT, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE A PLACE TO START.
SO, DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT BE?
I SAW SOMETHING THAT DAY...
TO BE CONTINUED.


LET'S GO TO OKINAWA!
LAANDS
ONE YEAR DURING SPRING, WHEN I WAS APPOINTED AS THE ARTIST FOR THE MANGA VERSION OF LET'S GO PLAY, I HAD ONCE SAID THAT "I'VE NEVER BEEN TO OKINAWA BEFORE."
SLEEPY BUT RESTLESS.
SO AFTER THAT, I WAS ABRUPTLY SENT ON A BUSINESS TRIP TO GATHER ALL THE RESOURCES AND DATA I NEEDED.
SO I MET UP WITH MY SUPERVISOR, MR.O, AND THE AUTHOR, MR. KAMINO, IN THE LOBBY OF THE NAHA AIRPORT.
NICE TO MEET YOU, TOO.
KAMI
MR. O
N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
IS SUCH AN HONOR TO MEET THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR, MR. KAMINO, AS MY LOCAL GUIDE.
EVERYTHING I KNOW OF THIS PLACE CAME FROM T.V. PROGRAMS.
BEING BORN AND RAISED IN THE KANTO REGION, EVERYTHING IN OKINAWA WAS NEW TO ME.
OTHER
ELSA NATURE CONSERVATORY
SEA AND PEOPLE OF THE SEA
ISHIGAKI ISLAND
HISTORY
ANYTHING GOES
OKINAWAN MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURE
TYPE OF VIPER
AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE INDIGENOUS TO OKINAWA
VROOM!
OUR FIRST STOP WAS THE BIGGEST TURTLEBACK TOMB IN NAHA CITY.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE FIRST THING I SAW IN OKINAWA WAS A TOMB...
IN BETWEEN WAITING AND TOURING, I WAS ABLE TO TALK TO MR. KAMINO ABOUT OKINAWA.
THAT'S WHY A LOT OF PEOPLE COME HERE DURING THE SPRING.
OH, THAT'S GREAT!
YOU WON'T GET HAY FEVER IN OKINAWA.
KAMI
WOW!
SO WE BEGAN THE TOUR WITH THE RENTAL CAR THAT MR. O HAD GOTTEN FOR US.

THIS IS WHERE EVERYBODY WAS GATHERED AT IN THE BEGINNING OF CHAPTER 1.


THE CENTRAL AREA OF THE TOMB IS A PLAZA-LIKE OPEN SPACE.
MANY FAMILIES AND THEIR RELATIVES OFTEN HOLD MEMORIAL PARTIES HERE WHEN THEY VISIT THEIR ANCESTORS.
MOUNTAIN.
MR. KAMINO ALSO THOUGHT THAT MAYBE IT FUNCTIONED AS SOMETHING ELSE, BACK IN ITS DAY.
LOOKS LIKE A CONCRETE WALL TO PREVENT FALLING ROCKS.
T-THAT'S A TOMB?!


YOU CAN FIND A LOT OF SMALLER TOMBS THAT ARE MADE OF MARBLE.
SINCE OKINAWA IS NEAR TAIWAN, ROCKS ARE A LOT CHEAPER. SUCH IS A LUXURY NOT COMMON IN THE KANTO AREA..
THEY'RE BIG, EVEN THOUGH THEY'RE CLASSIFIED AS "SMALL TOMBS".
SOME OF THEM EVEN HAVE BENCHES AND METAL FIXTURES FOR TENTS.
AND A NAME PLATE AS WELL.

THE WEATHER WAS RATHER CLOUDY BECAUSE IT WAS DURING THE RAINY SEASON IN EARLY APRIL. BUT WE FOUND A FEW TOURISTS WHO STILL SWAM.

THERE YOU HAVE IT! THE GREAT NATURE OF OKINAWA!!
KAMI
NOPE, IT'S TO PREVENT THE SHARKS FROM SWIMMING IN.
AND PASSED BY A LAKE THAT WAS SAID TO BRING YOU BAD LUCK IF YOU TRIED TO PAINT THERE.
HEY, IT'S TAMAKI'S RADIO PROGRAM.
KAMI
YUP.
TENSE
AFTER THAT, WE HAD LUNCH AT HOKUJYO.
WE ALSO VISITED THE NAMINOUE SHRINE.
THIS TYPE OF HIDARI-TOMOE CREST IS FOUND EXCLUSIVELY IN OKINAWA
WE THEN EMBARKED ON SEVERAL NATURE VIEWING EXCURSIONS.
A REGULAR APARTMENT BUILDING IN THE KANTO AREA WOULD BE AN ENTIRE HOUSE FOR ONE FAMILY IN OKINAWA. I WAS QUITE SURPRISED.
OKINAWA OFTEN HAS TYPHOONS, SO MOST HOUSEHOLDS HAVE IRON BARS INSTALLED ON THEIR WINDOWS.
SINCE IT'S AN ISLAND SURROUNDED BY THE SEA, METAL OR WOOD ARE LESS DURABLE CHOICES FOR CONSTRUCTION.
ON THE OTHER HAND, MOST BUILDINGS IN OKINAWA SEEM TO BE MADE OUT OF CONCRETE.
SEEMS LIKE THE OFFICER'S HOUSES ARE CUSTOMIZABLE.
I ALSO GOT A GLIMPSE OF THE AMERICAN ARMY BASE THROUGH SOME FENCING.
ドドド
OOOOH!!
AND BEFORE MY EYES, THERE WAS A...!!
CLANG
ガラ
KOKKOROKO HOUSE
AFTER VISITING A LOT OF PLACES, I CAME ACROSS A STORE CALLED "KOKKOROKO HOUSE."
WHERE'S THE ENTRANCE?

TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT VOLUME! (MAYBE)

A WORD FROM THE AUTHOR:

SPEAKING OF POSTSCRIPT, I FEEL LIKE MR. *888* SHOULD'VE HAD THE HONOR OF WRITING THIS. I'M SIMPLY THE PERSON WHO GRINS HAPPILY WHILE GOING OVER THE FINISHED MANGA SCRIPT. IF ANYTHING, PLEASE READ MY WORDS IN A LIGHT MANNER AND TREAT IT AS A SIMPLE EXTRA WRITING OF CASUAL INTENTIONS.

BUT YOU SEE, WHEN "LET'S GO PLAY" BECAME A MANGA, IT WAS VERY UNEXPECTED... THOUGH IN THE NOVEL, I DID INCLUDE A LOT OF INSTANCES THAT COULD HAVE EASILY BEEN ADAPTED TO SHORT MANGA STRIPS.

HOWEVER, I REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY INTENTION OF MAKING THE STORY INTO A MANGA... I WAS ALREADY ECSTATIC WHEN THEY TOLD ME THEY WERE MAKING A CD DRAMA OUT OF IT! AND TO THINK IT HAS BEEN ADAPTED INTO A MANGA, TOO! WOW.

AS THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR, THERE ARE DEFINITELY A LOT OF INDESCRIBABLE FEELINGS HERE AND THERE...

SINCE HŌDEN EIZOU DID THE ILLUSTRATION FOR THE NOVEL, MR. *888* HAD TO KEEP THE ORIGINAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCT A MANGA THAT RETAINED ALL OF THE QUALITIES OF THE CHARACTERS AND FIT THEM INTO THE PLOT FLOW. IN FACT, I THINK HE DID IT SO WELL THAT THE MANGA VERSION MIGHT BE *300%* MORE INTERESTING THAN THE NOVEL.

ESPECIALLY WITH THE ASSIST-A-ROIDS; THE LITTLE ONES ARE VERY POPULAR IN THE SERIES BUT UNFORTUNATELY, THEY NEVER APPEARED IN THE NOVEL ILLUSTRATIONS. IT'S GREAT TO SEE THEM IN ACTION IN THE MANGA. I'M SURE MANY OF THE READERS ARE DELIGHTED ABOUT THAT.

SO FAR, THE PLOT IS COMING TO THE CLIMAX POINT IN THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE NOVEL, AND THE REST OF THE STORY IS BEING TRANSLATED INTO MANGA AS I'M SPEAKING. PLEASE ALSO ANTICIPATE THE APPEARANCE OF NEW CHARACTERS!

I, AS A READER, WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO HOW DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE STORY AND THE CHARACTERS WILL BE REINVENTED AND PORTRAYED IN THE MANGA VERSION, AS WELL. CONSEQUENTLY, I WILL WORK EVEN HARDER ON THE ORIGINAL NOVEL TO PRODUCE SOMETHING EQUALLY MAGNIFICENT.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY ENDLESS GRATITUDE FOR MR. *888* AND ALIVE PUBLISHING. ALSO, MY APPRECIATION FOR ALL OF YOU READERS IS BOUNDLESS AS WELL. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

OKINA KAMINO.

Let's Go Play! 1

Digital Manga Guild presents

author. Okina Kamino illustrator. 888 character design. Houdeneizou

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Let's Go Play!

Kia's on ardinory high school student living in Okinawa. One day, he meets a cat-eared alien named Eris wha cloims to hove come to Eorth for on investigatian. Far whatever reasan, Eris hos decided to live with Kio ond nat anly is she a freelaader, she seems to hove brought o lot of troubles alang as well...

After much onticipotian, this populor lave camedy has finally been odopted into o mongo!

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